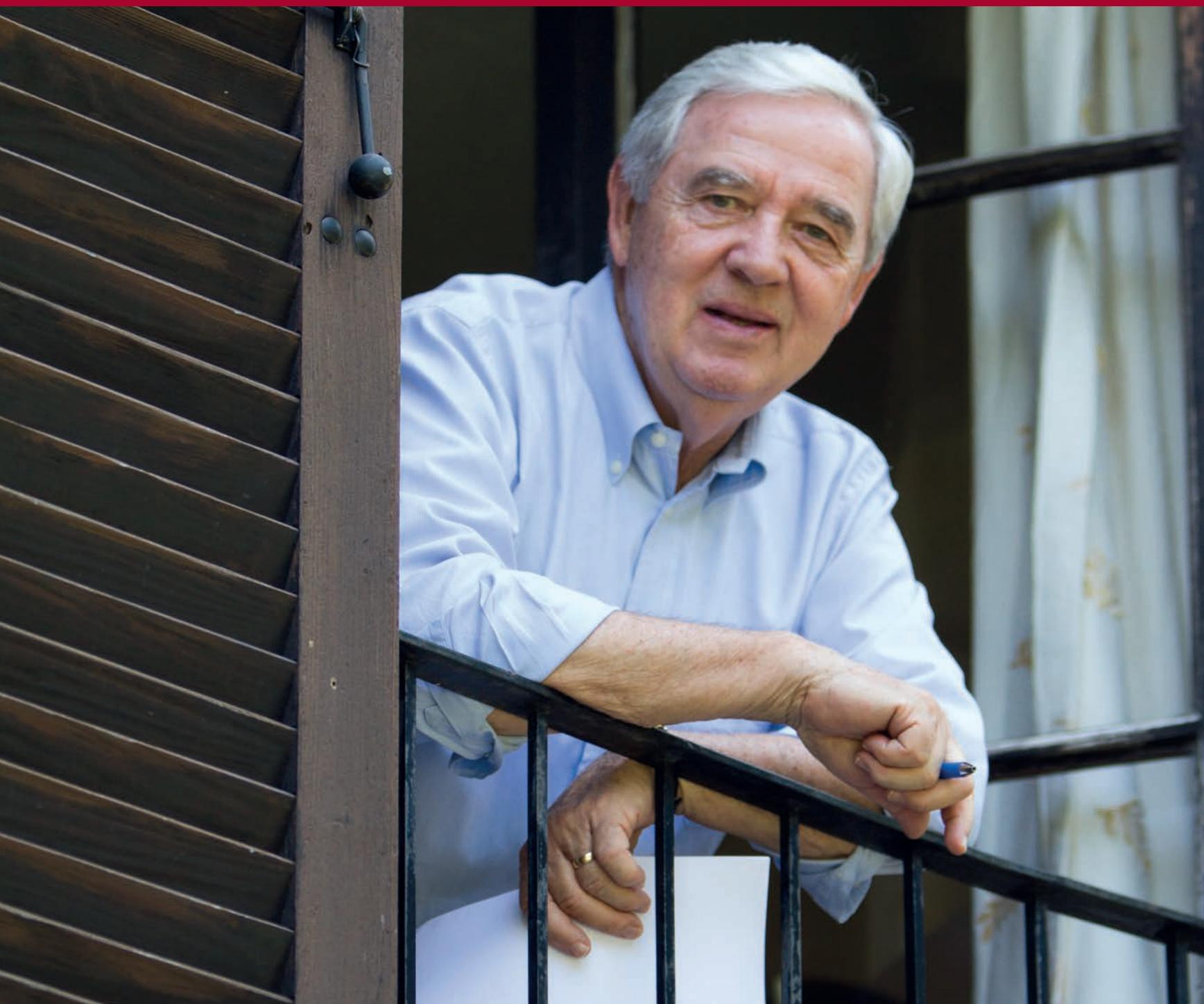


# TASIS TODAY

Fall 2017

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of The American School In Switzerland



**A Fine, Fine Headmaster**

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our extraordinary, veteran Headmaster **Lyle Rigg** has just retired after coming out of retirement three times to save a TASIS school, in addition to his long, exemplary tenure as Headmaster of TASIS England. He has put our school back on course to hand over the reins to our new Headmaster, **Christopher Nikoloff**. We believe we are fortunate to have found another Good Man who is intelligent, competent, and compassionate, and really shares the School's ethos and wants to be part of its trajectory. Headmastering is a very complicated and demanding job; to be successful takes a very adaptable, talented, bright, dedicated, modest, and energetic person. And TASIS, with all its variables, is even more demanding as we seek to maintain the ethos of the special educational community we have built over the past 60 years, with the spirit and values of the Founder, my mother, Mrs. Fleming, at the heart of our institution, but also eliciting the commitment and unique energies and contributions of veterans and new additions to our community.

My mother wanted to surround young people with beauty, and this was for her a true passion and ideal and not a merely decorative idea. In planning and developing the Global Village at TASIS over the last twenty years, David Mayernik and I have pondered and tried to give vivid shape to the classical ideal that animated my mother in choosing such beautiful settings and traditional buildings for her educational project. My mother believed in a kind of natural aristocracy of people who wanted to live according to high standards of personal exertion, commitment, and responsibility, taking seriously what the distinguished educator John Erskine called a hundred years ago "the moral obligation to be intelligent." But in addition to truth and goodness (intellect and ethics), and the requirements of utility in the world, my mother passionately believed that human persons – teachers, students, citizens, souls, all of us – hunger for beauty, also in the sense of courtesy, harmony, coherence, decent Godly order, the loveliness of form and grace of which we are capable.

My mother loved St. Paul's hymn to loving-kindness in 1 Corinthians 13; Shakespeare's Portia's speech about justice; courteous, gracious, kind, and humorous conduct; the humanly dignified landscapes of Ticino, Tuscany, and Provence; and she wanted as many young people (and teachers) exposed to these life-enhancing realities as possible. Thus, without being invidious or snobbish, TASIS has always been on the side of "high culture."

The late Milanese Catholic educator Don Luigi Giussani wrote about "the risk of education," and every serious educational project is such a risk; it is even a bet against chaos, ignorance, and cynicism. A big part of the TASIS "bet" is that beauty matters.

In this regard, I recently received confirmation, as we do from many alumni who visit, of the value of what we are creating and maintaining, from a high-powered international businessman, whose three children have attended our summer programs: "We thoroughly enjoyed the campus visit... we were blown away by its beauty and functionality. Today it stands as if the plan had always been there. From the top of the hill with the dorms, to the purpose-built art & architecture and science buildings – it is the most beautiful campus we have ever seen. Everywhere we walked there was

a smiley face, a hello and eye contact. I watch out for two things when I visit a place (with work or in private affairs). What is the atmosphere in the reception area, and as I walk around – in a factory, in a veterinary hospital, anywhere – is there eye contact? A smile? A hello? This is a great indicator of the environment. It was just such a lovely place to be! A place of stunning beauty and engagement."

With your help we aim to keep it that way.

With loving best wishes to all of our TASIS Family,

  
Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63,  
Chairman of the Board

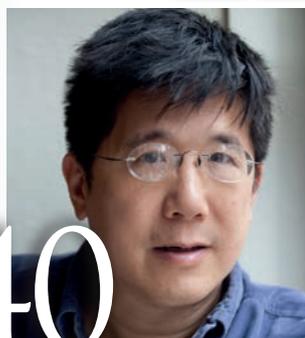


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# LYLE RIGG: THE GREATEST IN TESIS HISTORY



*Lyle with Michael and Lynn Aeschliman*

As the Chairman who once again asked Lyle Rigg to return to TESIS in an emergency, I wrote about him and his two-year tenure at TESIS to the School and Foundation Boards in my recent reports to them. Once again, I wrote, “He has accomplished invaluable improvements at TESIS in achieving his goals, even though, in his usual modesty, he says this could have been accomplished ‘no matter who had been serving as Headmaster.’” Not true! We should all be deeply grateful for Lyle’s putting the School in the strongest position possible to pass on to our new Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff. Once again in a TESIS school,

Lyle has left an indelible model of what great professional Headmastering is: in this regard he is the greatest figure in the history of the TESIS schools and is, in some respects, unique and irreplaceable. I am very pleased he will be joining the TESIS England Board as a Patron.

My husband Michael and I are not only deeply grateful to Lyle but honored to have him and Sharon as long-time, close personal friends.

*- Lynn and Michael Aeschliman*

# SWALLOWING TOADS AND EATING ELEPHANTS

*An excerpt from Lyle Rigg's 2017 Senior Banquet speech*

This is my 20th graduation banquet as a TASIS headmaster—15 in England and five here in Switzerland. I always like to start my remarks by giving a few statistics about the graduating class so that you have a feel for this amazing group of young people.

There are 90 seniors and two postgraduates in the graduating class. Young women outnumber young men 52 to 40. Fifty-six of our graduates are boarding students and 36 are day students. Seven of this year's graduates are in their first and only year at TASIS. Three of this year's graduates have spent 12 years here—starting in the first grade back in 2005. This year's graduates represent 31 different nationalities. It also includes four sets of twins!

Yes, the Class of 2017 is a remarkable group indeed.

I want to offer our graduates just three pieces of advice that have served me well throughout my many years in education—advice that I think also will help me in retirement.

The first piece of advice comes from the 18th-century French writer and wit, Nicolas Chamfort, who stated, “Swallow a toad in the morning and you will encounter nothing more disgusting the rest of the day.”

I like this quote a lot and I have used it frequently with teachers and administrators. Think about it. Swallow a toad in the morning and you will encounter nothing more disgusting the rest of the day.

The way that I have interpreted this quote throughout the years is that I have tried to do something that I was dreading – something unpleasant perhaps – early in the day so that I didn't have to think about it or worry about it all day.

Throughout our lives, we all will have many things to do that we don't particularly want to do or that we are absolutely dreading. I would suggest that the earlier we get the difficult or unpleasant task over with, the happier and healthier we will be.



*Lyle was a guest of honor at Mrs. Fleming's 97th birthday party*



*Bill Eichner and Lyle take a stroll around campus*

Yes, seniors, you will face lots of toads in your lives—some created by you and many created by others. Try to swallow them early so that you can move on.

Now that we have swallowed a toad, this brings me to my second piece of advice—eating an elephant. Many years ago one of my teachers told me, “Lyle, the best way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time.”

I thought about this statement a lot. Of course, I pictured a huge elephant on a plate and me with a knife and fork. But what exactly was this teacher trying to say to me?

Well, the way that I have interpreted this piece of advice is that I shouldn't be overwhelmed by the enormity of a task ahead of me. Throughout my career I have had many occasions when I was convinced that I couldn't complete all of the work that I was facing.

If I hadn't learned to break down the task that I was facing into little bites, I'm not sure that I would have survived. I'm very good at making to-do lists every day. Instead of looking at everything I have to accomplish, I break the list into sizeable, doable parts. Then I chip away at things one task at a time.

When I arrived here two years ago, (just as many of you were starting your demanding IB program) it was rather overwhelming to think of all of the things I had to do – the goals that I had set for myself and the School and that the Board of Directors had set for me. I was facing a huge TASIS elephant. I could have been paralyzed into inaction,



if I hadn't learned long ago to work on one task at a time.

And the third, and final, piece of advice that I want to leave you with also comes from the French writer Nicolas Chamfort. As Chamfort stated, “The most wasted day is that in which we have not laughed.”

Yes, I know that life is serious. We all have to face difficult and trying times. Many of us have already. One cannot read a newspaper or listen to a newscast without having grave concerns about the state of our world and the plight of millions and millions of our fellow men. Yes, life is serious and there are many reasons to be discouraged, disillusioned and, perhaps, even depressed. And often these difficult times have nothing to do with world events, but rather with issues that are much closer to home.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, the serious issues that we are facing or will face, I believe that we must find a way to laugh. As the American President Abraham Lincoln said in the midst of the terrible civil war that ravaged the United States in the 1860s, “With the fearful strain that is on me day and night, if I did not laugh, I should die.”

Although I never have come close to facing the horrors that confronted Lincoln throughout the Civil War, I have had my share of stressful and difficult days. Fortunately, I also have been able to laugh. And I have had frequent occasions to laugh at myself.

As the American writer Mark Twain once stated, “The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter.”

A few months ago one of our graduates, Aida Loggiodice, created a wish tree on campus. The tree was decorated with umbrellas that had wishes attached to them in three different languages.

Well, Class of 2017, as I graduate with you tomorrow and end my career as a headmaster, including three times here in Lugano, I would like to leave you with a special wish: that you find a job that you love so much that you also would be happy to leave retirement three times to return to it.

# TAKING DOWN WALLS

*Taken from Headmaster Lyle Rigg's comments to students at the 2017 International Week assembly*

Welcome to this ceremony to start International Week—one of the biggest celebrations of the year at TASIS and one of my favorite events. This also is one of the only occasions all year when we are all together as one school, from Pre-K to Post Graduates. More than 60 different nationalities represented at TASIS this year are here, together, as one community. Quite remarkable.

Although we soon will have a Parade of Flags to recognize and honor each different country represented at TASIS, and it is good to take pride in one's country, I think that the most important thing that happens here today is that we celebrate the fact that we are one community. At TASIS we work hard to emphasize the things that unite us.

As headmaster of TASIS and a citizen of the world, it is my strongest wish that we create an environment here where we take down walls.

***Walls that divide us.***

***Walls that prevent us from seeing each other, and hearing each other.***

***Walls that keep us from interacting and understanding each other.***

***Walls that prevent us from learning from each other.***

***Walls that keep us from enjoying each other.***

I realize that some of the walls that divide our world won't come down overnight, but I believe that we must keep chipping away at them.

Brick by brick, I am confident that we can help achieve Mrs. Fleming's dream of "replacing the teaching of hate and fear with the teaching of understanding and respect for the dignity of all human beings."

As TASIS Foundation Board member Michael Aeschliman writes in an essay on Community and Diversity at TASIS, "we emphasize the common human factors of civilization that unite people rather than separate them. At TASIS we emphasize the common humanity of students, teachers, and staff, not their differences."

Thank you for being the kind of community that takes down walls and that provides me with so much hope for the future.



*Lynn Fleming Aeschliman and Lyle, followed by Board member Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80 and Dr. Michael Aeschliman*



*Lyle with his wife, author Sharon Creech*

# TEN THINGS WE'LL MISS ABOUT LYLE RIGG



Lyle Rigg came to TASIS England in the fall of 1979 as Assistant Headmaster, Head of Residence, and teacher of History. Three years later, he was asked by Mrs. Fleming to come to TASIS to serve as Headmaster. Accompanying him to Lugano was his new wife, Sharon, who had also come to TASIS England in 1979. In the fall of 1984, he returned to TASIS England as Headmaster, a role he fulfilled with distinction until 1998. He was then Headmaster at the Pennington School in Princeton, NJ until he retired in 2006. Mrs. Fleming asked him to come out of retirement and serve as the Interim Headmaster at TASIS for the 2007-08 school year, and this became something of a pattern. He left retirement again for the 2009-10 school year to serve as Interim Headmaster at TASIS England, and he did this yet again (for the last time!) to be the Interim Headmaster at TASIS for the past two years, 2015-17.

- **1979 TASIS England** Assistant Headmaster, Head of Residence, History Teacher
- **1982 TASIS** Headmaster
- **1984 TASIS England** Headmaster
- **1998 Pennington School, NJ** Headmaster
- **2006 Retirement #1**
- **2007 TASIS** Interim Headmaster
- **2008 Retirement #2**
- **2009 TASIS England** Interim Headmaster
- **2010 Retirement #3**
- **2015 TASIS** Headmaster
- **2017 Retirement #4**

During the end-of-year celebrations in May, TASIS presented Lyle with a book of anecdotes and notes of thanks from our community to help him remember just how valuable he has been to the lives of hundreds of students, faculty members, and staff in England and Lugano. These heartfelt tributes had many things in common, some shared here: **Ten Things We'll Miss About Lyle Rigg.**

## **His wit.**

Lyle enjoys the absurdity and comedy that often arise from common situations, and even more so when the situation involves serious intent and planned decorum. This helps keep Lyle grounded in a healthy realism while he pursues ideal goals.

*John Nelson*

## **His calm nature.**

Whatever he would do, he was even and steady, impeccably dressed, never impatient or rushed; Lyle is the calm in the midst of the storm. Most of all, Lyle appreciated and supported people, and he reassured his colleagues through the various crises of school life. No wonder he has so many fans!

*Bill Eichner*

### **His empathy.**

Lyle always seems to formulate a response that assuages anxieties, inspires confidence, or clarifies problems. What impresses me most are the ways in which empathy and perceptiveness inform Lyle's uncanny success in communicating ideas that matter to a human being and to a community.

*Dr. Chris Love*

### **His respect for the handwritten note.**

Among the things I admire about Lyle are his attention to detail, his thoughtfulness, and his compassion. A perfectly timed note or hand-chosen card from him is sure to brighten your day. The gesture is small but the impact great. – *Emily McKee*

### **His wisdom.**

We all know Lyle is wise. But what's really nifty about spending time with Lyle is that one feels wiser afterwards. And, I believe, sometimes, one is.

*Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80*

### **His speeches.**

I had heard it had been a rough spring of 2015 and that morale was low. I didn't know what to expect upon arriving. We gathered in the Palmer Center for an All-Faculty meeting in late August. With no real understanding of the strain many had felt the previous spring, I could feel the room swing in Lyle's favor and understood that he had restored morale in one speech. This would be the first of many brilliant deliveries. – *Mark Chevalier*

### **His affection for George Washington.**

For some of us non-Americans, Lyle introduced us to his "lucky charm," George Washington. From socks to statues, dollar bills to quotations, even touching the nose of the Washington bust on Lyle's desk for luck, we will remember it all. And not just because he shared this luck with us by giving his admin team dollar bills as end-of-year presents!

*Guia Berera, MJ Breton*

### **His belief in the goodness of people.**

Lyle has been a mentor unlike any other during his short time here (this stint). Lyle has taught me compassion, temperance, and perseverance simply by being who he is. He truly believes in the goodness of people and brings that out in everyone he interacts with. – *KC McKee*

### **Swallowing Toads.**

On my desks in both Lugano and Durham, I have kept a small ceramic toad—a gift from Lyle and a daily reminder to heed his advice: "Swallow a toad in the morning and nothing worse will happen for the rest of your day."

One of many touchstones Lyle has shared with me, this (both object and idea) nicely illustrates some of the magical paradoxes of Lyle's leadership. He is at once humble and inspiring, kind yet courageous, amiable but strong. Lyle has swallowed innumerable toads for all of us, for the schools we love, and for the students we nurture. – *Michael Ulku-Steiner*

### **His commitment to excellence.**

Lyle set the gold standard for leadership, and he remains the reference point for administrative decisions: "How would Lyle handle that?"

*Bill Eichner*

**For all of these reasons and many more, we will miss you, Lyle.**



# WELCOME NEW TASIS HEADMASTER CHRISTOPHER NIKOLOFF



*The TASIS community is delighted to welcome new Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff, who will lead the School after spending 18 years at the excellent Harker School in San Jose, California, where he served as Headmaster since 2005.*

*Prior to serving as an administrator at Harker from 1999–2005, Chris served as Dean of Students, among other roles at the Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley, California, where he worked from 1992–1999. He also chaired the Accreditation Committees of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) for the French American School of San Francisco and the Silicon Valley German International School.*

*A native of upstate New York, Chris graduated with a B.A., magna cum laude, in English and philosophy, and an M.A.T., summa cum laude, in education and English literature, both from Boston University, where he studied with Christopher Ricks, Geoffrey Hill, and William Arrowsmith. In 2008 he earned an M.B.A. from Santa Clara University.*

*Chris, who moved to Lugano with his wife Corina and their three young sons in July, will look to build on the admirable work done by outgoing Headmaster Lyle Rigg, who agreed to come out of retirement in 2015 to devote two full academic years to the School he first began serving in 1979.*

*Chris was able to spend a week on campus with Lyle Rigg in June, and he graciously agreed to a short interview.*

**What aspects of the move to Lugano are you and your family most excited about?** The School and the community are the most exciting parts of the move. My family and I are excited to join the community—everyone has been so welcoming and supportive. The values of the School align significantly with mine as an educator. Of course the surrounding area is beautiful and in the heart of Europe. All of that is really exciting.

**How difficult is it for you to leave Harker after 18 years?** Bittersweet. There were many heartfelt goodbyes. Leaving northern California after 26 years and Harker after 18 is not easy, but I am also really excited to be a part of the TASIS community and the broader areas of Lugano and Ticino.

**What characteristics have enabled you to find success as a leader?** I love schools. I love children. I love what schools stand for. And I look at schools as a great place of hope and joy. So I think that excitement fuels me. I love people. I love the opportunities and challenges of bringing out the best in students and the adults who work with them. I think schools are humanity's hope for the future.

**Is that how you'd describe your management style—as empowering people?** That's what I strive for: supporting and serving the people who are supporting and serving the kids. If I can bring out the best in the adults who are serving the kids, and consequently see the students thrive, I am very satisfied.

**What goals do you have for your first year at TASIS?** The number one goal for the first year is to get to know the community—to become acquainted with the School and its people, the geography of the School, the human landscape of the School. My goals will be to understand, to listen, and to see how we can together keep moving the School forward. I believe in continual improvement and hope that I can enlist the greater community here in that journey, which is well under way already.

**What are your long-term goals for the School?** My long-term goal is to be a steward of the values of the School that are rooted in Mrs. Fleming's vision—academic excellence, beauty, civility, appreciation of the arts, global-mindedness, and a commitment to humanity. If together with the TASIS community we can continue to further these goals, I will feel I have been a successful steward of the institution.

**What are your thoughts on Mrs. Fleming and her philosophy and legacy?** I had heard of TASIS for many years. The School is recognized around the world. But I did not take a close look at the School until this opportunity was brought to my attention. After looking more closely, I became further drawn to the values of the School. Independently of TASIS, I have always been a believer in strong academic content reflecting what Matthew Arnold called “the best which has been thought and said in the world.”

Also, to create a globally-minded School that has

a commitment to bringing good into the world, to be a force for good globally, was so forward looking in Mrs. Fleming's time and is so needed today. Finally, to bring that back to the daily appreciation of beauty, the arts, and civility makes these values personal and intimate. You see these values in the multiple interactions on campus, the simple things, whether in the greetings, the thoughtful gestures, the holding of a door, the beauty of the campus, or the celebration of the arts. The values are timeless.

**What are the benefits and challenges of working with an international population?** With over 60 nationalities represented in our community, students will have the opportunity to see the world from many perspectives. This plurality invites everyone to look at humanity as a whole; our challenge will always be to ensure that we are listening as respectfully as possible and forging a common path together.

**How can alumni benefit schools, and vice versa?** Alumni are an important voice in any school community. They have experienced the School, they are out in the world, and they have a unique perspective on what the School brings. Hearing their voice and including them in the future plans of TASIS is critical. We hope we can reach out and help them feel connected to the School, help them foster those memories and connections, and provide a platform for them to share their voice.

**What are your thoughts on the extended global community of TASIS and how we can make it thrive?**

I am excited to hear that an organic community has developed and that TASIS is so active in fostering that community. It's important that we provide those platforms, whether digital or physical, that are conducive to alumni getting together. I see our alumni as a force for good in the world, per Mrs. Fleming's vision, and we hope we can partner with them to further that vision for future generations.

**You've had a chance to get to know Lyle Rigg well over these past few months. Is there anything you'd like to say about him?**

I am sure the community knows this already, but it bears repeating that the school has a treasure in Lyle. His service to the School and his stewarding of its values both here and in England are humbling to contemplate. I am honored to follow him. I would love the community to know that during what had to be an incredibly busy year—the last year of a Headmaster—he has been generous and gracious with his time to the very end. I'm very grateful for that. We have been able to strike a relationship and rapport that can only help the transition. I'm sure I will continue to seek his counsel once he's in Maine. We will not need the Batphone but the Lyle phone!

Not only has Lyle been gracious and generous, but his warmth and sense of humor as a human and as an educator have come through. I know it is a cliché, but his will be big shoes to fill.



# GRADUATION AWARDS 2017

*Congratulations to the following students:*

<b>Excellence in Art:</b>	Dominikus Kronwitter	<b>Ambassador's Cup for Excellence in US History:</b>	Kirill Krupenin
<b>The Bertha Seifert Award for Excellence in Music:</b>	Tennessee Hildebrand	<b>The Shah Akbar Khan Award for Excellence in Mathematics:</b>	Adam Novak
<b>The Horst Dürschmidt Award for Excellence in Photography:</b>	Zainab Qureshi	<b>Excellence in Science:</b>	Hannah Gage and Sara Ilic
<b>The Kay Hamblin Award for Excellence in Theater:</b>	John Tabor Gage	<b>The Salutatorian Scholarship Award:</b>	Laura Vecoli
<b>Excellence in English as an Additional Language:</b>	Maria Vittoria Gallina Bognetti	<b>The Valedictorian Scholarship Award:</b>	Adam Novak
<b>Excellence in Modern Languages:</b>	Laura Vecoli	<b>Headmaster's Award:</b>	Fiona Perdomo
<b>The Cynthia Whisenant Award for Excellence in English Literature:</b>	Aida Loggiodice	<b>The ECIS Award for International Understanding:</b>	Laura Vecoli
<b>Excellence in History:</b>	Niccolo McConnell	<b>The Jan Opsahl Service Award:</b>	Hannah Gage
		<b>The Michael Ulku-Steiner Leadership Award:</b>	Gabriele Capacci
		<b>H. Miller Crist Award:</b>	Aida Loggiodice

To learn more about this year's winners, visit the [TASIS News](#) section on our website.

# WHERE SHE COMES FROM



The recipient of both the 2017 H. Miller Crist Award, our highest award, and the Cynthia Whisenant Award for Excellence in English Literature, **Aida Loggiodice '17** embodies the ideal – even textbook – TESIS student. Born in the US, Aida grew up in Venezuela and has Italian heritage. She has lived in Spain and Saudi Arabia and will attend Università Bocconi in Milan next fall. Her multicultural, multilingual background echoes that of many TESIS students, and her poem “17” beautifully articulates the distinct place TESIS holds in the hearts of its graduates.

Headmaster Lyle Rigg said of Aida, “Try as you may, you will find no more perfect embodiment of the ideals of the School: service, compassion, kindness, academic excellence, love of learning, and love of life. Truly remarkable is that her commitment to these ideals often does not really seem a commitment at all, rather an unconscious movement or inclination, like a heartbeat or the blink of an eye. In her, opposites coexist and take action according to the needs of the moment: tenacity and tenderness, initiative and deference, reason and imagination. The irony is that despite her capacity for empathy, perhaps her leading characteristic, she is probably unaware, blinded by her humility, of just how much we appreciate and admire her.”

Former English Department Chair Todd Matthew, who gave Aida his departmental award in 2017, said, “She does not speak to be heard. She does not grandstand—though she could. She listens carefully. She questions honestly.

*On the page, her thinking is deep and clear, analytically or creatively. One completely forgets that she only started learning English in the fifth grade.”*

*Aida leaves TESIS bittersweetly. “I will dearly miss my teachers and dorm parents who unconditionally supported me during my stay at TESIS,” she says. “I will miss the view and the campus for I truly believe that kind of beauty is difficult to find at a school. Last but not least, I will miss the chocolate cereal they serve at De Nobili every morning for breakfast.”*

*Enjoy this exceptional poem by a remarkable graduate from the Class of 2017.*

## 17

1. I come from  
where the water meets the mountain at the edge of the horizon -  
impossibly beautiful to look at, even more impossible to describe,  
because try as you might  
(even though try is a fail word)  
you'll never be able to paint a picture  
in words  
of the way the light wanders in between  
the peaks and troughs of this valley we have all been trained to call  
home.  
And when I say trained I don't mean they sat us down Opening Day  
pointed to a picture of the view, then to the word “home”  
and back and forth we went  
Lugano, home, Lugano, home, Lugano, home  
until the two became one and the same thing in our brains.  
No—  
I mean the way beauty itself has made us its slaves,  
its faithful followers on Instagram  
its disciples  
spreading word about it to every arc of this equally beautiful world.

2. I come from dorm parents  
cooking for you when you are blue  
or green or pink or yellow  
or whatever color sadness decides to manifest itself in  
because somehow heartbreak with a touch of avocado toast  
simply does not taste as sour.  
(Thank you, Ms. Schlicht.)

3. I come from best friends  
climbing over walls you built around yourself a long time ago  
on days you felt like somebody had vacuumed  
all the good instead of all the dust in this world  
bringing in a ladder

then another one  
because you accidentally built the walls too high  
turning on the ambulance sirens  
carrying the med kits on their shoulders.  
I'll never forget the night  
one of them treaded the dangerous ground  
between her bed and mine  
avoiding the land mines of the battlefield we like to call love  
and held me until I fell asleep.  
When your best friend is also your roommate  
communication goes a little like this \*silence\*

**4.** I come from snack bar couches older than Methuselah himself.

**5.** I come from a place  
where the only people who take trays at the lunch room  
are new students and faculty members,  
a pattern I never was able to understand  
Maybe there's not that much difference  
between being the scared and the scary.  
Still, it's not something to plot on a graph...  
(sorry Mr. Walker)

**6.** I come from a place  
that mended my wounds  
and dimmed my scars  
that taught me to look forward,  
never backwards.  
Of course,  
part of that was the fact I'd fall down the stairs otherwise.  
Speaking of stairs...

**7.** I come from a place  
where people disregard the unwritten law  
of keeping to the right on staircases  
and twisting left to close lids.  
More than once I witnessed  
paint explode  
with the might of the most peaceful nuclear bomb.  
(Right, Mr. Dukes?)  
I just sat and watched blissful blobs of color fly  
through the mixture of gases that is air  
performing more tricks than an acrobat at a circus  
only to land on  
my uniform shirt.

**8.** I come from a place  
with sun  
rain  
wind  
hail  
fog  
thunder  
lightning  
and rainbows  
on the same day...

**9.** I come from where

mistakes are pardoned  
before you (or your parents) have had time to forgive yourself.  
They hang in a museum  
like a piece of modern art  
slightly askew  
so you have to tilt your head a little to the left  
and wonder  
"What was I thinking?"

**10.** I come from the good and the bad  
from beginnings and ends  
and every single region in between.  
From small to big, but never tiny  
from light to dark green, but never brown  
and from accidental to intentional, but never purposefully hurtful.

**11.** I come from nurses filling in the shoes of Mom  
like the week my stomach felt more like a washing machine  
and less like a stomach  
when my actual mom wanted to fly in  
and make me the magic chicken noodle soup  
(Yes, all moms have a magic chicken noodle soup.)  
but instead my pseudo mom, the nurse,  
prepared the pseudo chicken noodle soup  
with less chicken  
but just as much care.

**12.** I come from Pasta Mondays and Fish Fridays

**13.** I come from where the hardest test  
is that of time.  
The seconds ticking by faster before 5 o'clock check-in  
in a taxi that is usually over the speed limit  
but feels like respecting the rules just this once.  
Alarm clocks sounding like fire alarms  
and fire alarms sounding a lot like  
someone blowdrying her  
underwear.

**14.** I come from a place where stereotypes don't exist:  
you'll find an Asian that doesn't like math  
a Latino that doesn't speak out of their elbows  
and an Italian that likes pineapple on pizza  
Just kidding...

**15.** I come from where they have different definitions of the color  
"white"

**16.** I come from "Ciao Massimo" and "Grazie Vivi"-  
a community that treats their staff with the same respect  
as their headmaster  
knits itself closer  
loops of yarn stitched in an assembly line of sorts  
never taught to break apart  
only taught to grow.

**17.** I come from The American School in Switzerland  
What about you?

# A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

*Achieving the enviable accolade of Valedictorian at a school like TASIS is always admirable. This year, however, the recipient was described by one faculty member as “every teacher’s favorite student for his affability, teamwork, dedication, and the results he achieves.” **Adam Novak ’17** is among the first TASIS “lifers”, students who started as first graders and attended TASIS for their entire school careers.*

*Adam’s love of learning was noted as early as first grade, when a teacher wrote, “he is a keen learner and always interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the material being presented in class. He shows great enthusiasm for the world around him.” He went on to become a top student in Elementary School, achieved Highest Honors throughout Middle School, and ends his TASIS career with the top academic honor.*

*Adam is the sort of student who presented impressive extra credit projects in classes where he already had the highest grade. He won two Magnificent Seven awards during his TASIS tenure for Integrity and Respect. He is as comfortable speaking English as he is conversing in Russian, Italian, or French. He also took 10 AP and IB courses during his junior and senior years, achieving high results on his tests.*

*TASIS teacher Danny Schiff was Adam’s high school advisor. “Over 12 years, Adam truly exemplified TASIS at its most idealized state,” he said. “He humbly handled his workload and responsibly prepared for his demanding schedule while balancing his social life and fitness, and it was an absolute pleasure to work with him.” Veteran teacher Mark Aeschliman agreed; “I have nothing beyond high praise for Adam,” he said. “I really enjoyed having him in class. Excellent student.”*



*Adam attends Bocconi University in Milan. Enjoy Adam's valedictory speech below.*

I came to TASIS 12 years ago looking for answers, but I now realize that I am leaving with many questions. In search of these so-called answers, this year I decided to take an Art History class. Frankly, art and I never got along well together: first, because I am colorblind, and second, because I have always been skeptical about the concept of modern art. Nevertheless, I wanted to see what the world of art had to offer and if it really lived up to the name.

It is difficult to explain exactly what I discovered this year while taking Art History, which is why I'll use Dostoyevsky as an aid. Dostoyevsky put it best when he wrote, "beauty will save the world". Many artists base their works off of styles of other artists to create something new and unseen. It is through this innovation that art is made and artists force a vision of a new kind. For example, Malevich was influenced by Picasso, the Mannerists used Raphael, and I was inspired by a certain Mino Kronwitter '17. I remember that in our Middle School art class, I would often seek inspiration from the drawings of Mino, my friend. Now, I don't know the degree to which Mino made use of my artistic disasters, but I am confident that at the time we formed a mutual connection in this art class, which is important because teamwork nowadays is something you can't get enough of. The point is that Mino and I used our differences not as just another reason to argue, but as an instrument for self-improvement. A Ukrainian and a German working together, making art. This is what Dostoyevsky meant when he wrote that beauty will save the world.

When studying modern art, my teacher, Mark Aeschliman, would frequently urge us to "suspend our disbelief". Mr. Aeschliman stressed the importance of opening up your mind to the ideas

and points of view of the artists. To understand a work of modern art, we must first take the time to understand the artist. Doing so is actually not that simple and requires a great deal of intelligence as well as emotional intelligence. It was at the beginning of this year, then, that I understood that the world is not only built on mathematical principles but on emotional contact, too. The greatest part about spending 12 years at TASIS, perhaps, is the fact that I developed a great deal of empathy, understanding, and emotions thanks to the constant presence of many different nationalities and cultures. The goal of a school is to prepare its students in such a way that they not only know the world, but they feel it emotionally, too, and I think that this is the defining characteristic of TASIS. My trip to Zambia, for example, with the Global Service Program, brought me to the southern hemisphere, where I learned the value of connecting to other people and the importance of understanding them. During our trip we built a house, and we worked with orphaned children, all in a foreign country, but I couldn't have felt more at home because I toiled by the side of my Zambian brothers Patrick and Gabby.

I never accomplished anything notably extraordinary while attending school, but I believe TASIS gave us the proper foundation to start making great deeds. We learn about different cultures and we begin to understand them, which is why we become more open, more humane, more empathetic. The world is a work of art, so let us take the time to understand its artists and help them in their pursuit of beauty.

Having said this, I would like to thank my family for the support and the love and the School for having me these past 12 years. A special shout-out to the Schfamily; it's been real. And to the Class of 2017: great deeds await you so get out there, swallow that darn toad, and save the world.

# WE WELCOME A VISIONARY

*Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63  
introduces graduation speaker Bracken Darrell*



*Lyle Rigg, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman, and Bracken Darrell*

We are pleased to have Bracken Darrell as our TASIC Commencement speaker this year. Three of his children attended TASIC for a total of eleven years, with two of them graduating from the School.

Mr. Darrell has been the Chief Executive Officer, President, and Executive Director of Logitech International SA since 2012, and in this role he has brought about what has been called “one of the smartphone era’s most remarkable [company] turnaround stories...Logitech’s stock has quadrupled [in value] since he took over [five] years ago.”

Mr. Darrell was one of four siblings raised by a single mother in western Kentucky. This upbringing, he says,

in which there was food but no money, helped him “understand what it means to make do with less – to stay focused and resist a sense of entitlement.”

He attended Hendrix College in Arkansas, studying liberal arts and graduating with a degree in English, then took an M.B.A. at Harvard Business School. He subsequently held executive positions at Procter and Gamble, General Electric, and Whirlpool, whose European division he ran from 2009 to 2012.

Mr. Darrell’s successful turnaround of Logitech has attracted wide notice. The company is now worth \$5.5 billion dollars. We are pleased to have him with us today.

# IT'S LATER THAN IT'S EVER BEEN

*An excerpt from Mr. Darrell's inspiring Commencement speech to students*

This is your chance. It's just your beginning and there is so much to do. Let me give you three pieces of practical advice that are pretty down to earth, but very important.

**1.** Set some goals. Do it routinely. Goals make you do more than you might. And goals are free so you might as well have some.

**2.** Start failing. Stop thinking about failure and replace that word with learning. Every time you do something and it doesn't work, it's an opportunity to learn. Unfortunately, things often work so you learn a lot less. Thank God failure is common. Don't play it safe in your life. Take risks. View failure as more valuable than success. Success, in fact, is dangerous in a way, because it makes you think you need to do things the same way, or consolidate your gains since you are successful. Many who succeed stop innovating. Failing is wonderful. You learn from the mistake. You stay humble. And you have to go try again!

**3.** Finally, don't worry about having a passion to follow. That's right, forget all this exaggerated encouragement to "find your passion." If you don't have a particular passion you want to build a career on, don't worry. Just get a rough path to something you think you might like. And then at every step of the way learn to love what you do ("love the one you're with"). There is something to love about every job. I love my job at Logitech. But I love doing the laundry. Cleaning floors. Why? Because there is some little satisfaction, innovation, perfection to bring to each job that makes me feel I improved something or made a little difference. And if you love what you do—and I do mean deliberately love it—you will be good at it. And that will open new doors to things you will also need to learn to love. And eventually you will discover new passions. I have a hunch you'll eventually have many passions in your life.

To close, I am very optimistic about the future: ours, and yours.

From an ideological standpoint, I am not worried about the ideologies that discourage the continued opening of the world and embracing of our many differences. Like the various runners in a marathon, these forces sometimes

take a temporary lead, causing friction toward this inevitable openness, but we should all listen to both sides, have open and honest debates, and learn... there is almost always something to learn about the future in these debates. But as those debates mature, the inevitable opening of the world will continue for you. Decade, after decade, after decade.

From a technological perspective, I don't believe the bad outcomes of technology will overwhelm us. Technology has always scared us because it is scary to change. Embrace it. I do sometimes feel there are those who unknowingly see the development of technology almost as an end in itself. Technology is here to extend human capability and knowledge. But I am convinced we will, YOU will, make the next generation of technology create a better earth...better lives, a deeper understanding of our place in space and time, and a more peaceful world. We will need safeguards on our privacy, our safety, and our liberties. However, we will develop them and continue to evolve those safeguards as our technologies, our tools, evolve. Remember that each of you can, and will, make a difference in the lives of many or the lives of those just around you.

Finally, from a personal standpoint, go out into that big universe on this little green and blue ball with excitement. Don't worry about passion; you will find it eventually. Just set some goals. Embrace learning and even though a little success is probably good for your confidence, know that failure beats success every time for learning. So don't be afraid of it.

My grandfather was the president of a small college in Texas. He was a real inspiration to me because he was a practical optimist in every sense of the word... like I hope you will be. Every time he came to visit as it approached bedtime, he would stand up, look at his watch, and say what I will now say to you, "Bracken buster, it's later than it's ever been."

Time for us, time for you, to get started. It is later than it's ever been.

# IN GRATITUDE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

*We say goodbye to three long-standing members of the TESIS Board of Directors*



**Richard (Rick) Bell II, PG '65** served on the TESIS Board from 2010 to 2016. During his tenure he served as Chairman of the TESIS Board Development Committee. A true entrepreneur, Rick lived in California, where he had great success in publishing and selling magazines, and now lives and works in Delaware, where he has built successful companies. In 1981 he founded Harvard

Business Services, Inc., of which he is President: it currently serves as Delaware Registered Agent for more than 60,000 companies in Good Standing, including some Ticino companies. He and his wife Paulise donated the Bell Biology Lab and the Kay Hamblin Terrace, among other gifts to TESIS. They have four children, including TESIS alumnus Michael Bell '05, and six grandchildren. Rick's energy, expertise, and optimism will be missed.

**Jennifer Bullard Brogгинi** brought a wealth of international experience to our Board from 2009-2017, including considerable work with financial institutions in Switzerland. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Audit Committee of TechnoServe, a non-profit organization founded by her father, and based in Washington D.C. with annual revenues of over \$90 million and operations in 29 countries, which helps entrepreneurial men and women in poor areas of the developing world to build businesses. She is a Director of the Ticino Chapter of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce and served on the town council of Savosa in Ticino. Formerly she was a Director of Kieger AG, an institutional investment consulting company in Zurich, and also a Director of Banque Fiduciary Trust in Geneva (part of the Franklin Templeton Group), where she was Chair of the Audit Committee.



Previously, Jennifer held a number of positions during 15 years with Manufacturers Hanover Trust in New York and Switzerland (which merged during this period to become JPMorgan Chase), including Vice President of Corporate Banking, Head of Swiss Mergers and Acquisitions, and Vice President of Private Banking. Jennifer was raised in the US, has also lived in Switzerland and France, and speaks Italian, French, and German fluently. Her husband Andrea Brogini is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Migros and they have two daughters who are both TASIC graduates.

**Arne Jan Opsahl, TASIC '68** leaves a TASIC legacy that will last for many years to come. From Norway, Jan was the first international student at TASIC: he won the American History prize and went on to study in the USA at Dartmouth College. A real-estate developer and asset manager, Jan spent many years at the Singer Company in New York City before moving back to Norway in 1978



to manage his family business of hotel interior design. After several years of frequent travels to Lugano to support his aging parents, he sold the Norwegian business and, at the end of 2007, he and his wife Birgitta moved back to Lugano. They have now taken up residency in England. Jan served on the TASIC Board from 2010-2017. He generously conceived and funded the TASIC Global Service Program with his endowment gift to the TASIC Foundation, and in 2017 the program was renamed the Opsahl Global Service Learning Program to honor Jan's devotion to transforming lives by providing every TASIC High School student with a unique opportunity to connect across borders—whether geographic, economic, or social—through on-site experiences that provide help, increase knowledge, build empathy, and encourage personal responsibility. Jan is an exemplary TASIC alumnus and has been a TASIC Commencement speaker at the request of the students.

## CONSTANTS AND VARIABLES: TWO IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS

*Dr. Michael Aeschliman on Bill Eichner and David Jepson*



TASIS has always been an exciting place, and in its early years under Mrs. Fleming perhaps something of a three-ring circus, with lots of variables and comparatively few constants. The original pioneer-founder herself, MCF used to ask teachers in a talk at the faculty banquet at the outset of each year, “Will you be a TASIS person?” She probably meant in those early days whether the individual teachers would have the adaptability, energy, and multitude of skills and competencies necessary to thrive at TASIS and serve the School’s mission – or develop them. Among the challenges in those days and since were the number of variables in the dynamic life of the School: different languages, different nationalities, different curricula, different academic-year and summer programs, and different talents necessary for teaching, coaching, tour-guiding, residential life, extra-curricular activities, administrative responsibilities.

Some people burned out at TASIS, and departed, but others thrived and stayed, and among the longest-serving “TASIS people” have been **Bill Eichner** and **David Jepson**, both of whom have been recently promoted to important new positions, Bill as Director of Institutional Advancement at TASIS and David as Director of Studies for both TASIS and TASIS England. Both men have extensive experience in TASIS schools, going back in each case a third of a century. Both have worked closely with longtime Headmaster Lyle Rigg for decades; indeed, both Lyle and David started their TASIS careers at TASIS England in 1979, and Lyle hired Bill in 1983.

**Bill Eichner** was educated at Ohio University and Syracuse University, including the Florence Fellowship at the Syracuse University Program in Florence, where he did an M.A. in Art History. He also completed an M.A. in Teaching and Curriculum with Michigan State

University. He started out at the American School of Florence, and subsequently he and his wife Melissa have served in various capacities at TASIS schools in Cyprus and France as well as Montagnola: Bill taught Art History, served with Melissa in residence, was Academic Dean for a decade and subsequently Director of Admissions for many years, becoming not only a professional collaborator with Mrs. Fleming and her daughter Lynn Fleming Aeschliman but also a close personal friend and adviser. Having recruited Emily McKee to work with him in Admissions, Bill has been gratified at her and her husband's contribution to TASIS, and Emily now takes Bill's old title as Director of Admissions. His new title "Director of Institutional Advancement" gives formal recognition to the fact that for many years Bill and his wife Melissa have been increasingly important "constants" in the whirling TASIS world of exciting but sometimes disconcerting variables, innovations, growth, and change. Chairman of the Board Lynn Aeschliman has increasingly felt the need for Bill's indispensable role at TASIS to be recognized by the School community, students, parents, and alumni. As Director of Admissions Bill presided over an enormous increase in the enrollment of the School, including the success of the elementary school and the accompanying growth of the day-student population. Bill's and Melissa's son James '07 is a TASIS alumnus.

**David Jepson** served most of his TASIS career at TASIS England, to which he returns now as Director of Studies for both schools, resident there but visiting Montagnola on a twice-monthly basis. David was educated at Wheaton College (Illinois), the University of London, Boston College, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and has taught English, Latin, philosophy, and computer programming in both schools. He was one of the key figures on the TASIS England faculty and staff, serving as Academic Dean and Head of the Upper School as well as chief publications writer for both TASIS schools and Director, with TASIS veteran theater director Kay Hamblin, of the "ShakespeareXperience" summer program at TASIS England. David returned to

TASIS England twice from high-ranking administrative positions at schools in the US, in upstate New York and in San Francisco, proving himself to be a true "TASIS person." Recruited anew by Interim Headmaster and old friend and colleague Lyle Rigg to help him in his recent two-year tenure as TASIS Headmaster, 2015-2017, David profoundly helped focus and coordinate the School's academic efforts, also serving as both a senior colleague and model for younger TASIS administrators and teachers. Along with Lyle's assembly speeches, David's regular written essays on educational issues for faculty have given guidance and inspiration, as well as knowledge of the TASIS aims and ethos that he and Lyle have done so much to make realities in their intertwined professional lives and careers. Two of David's children attended TASIS England, both going on to study at Harvard after graduation. [Visit [www.tasis.ch/Jepson](http://www.tasis.ch/Jepson) to read his perceptive and eloquent reflections on education and TASIS – ed.]

TASIS Board Chairman Lynn Aeschliman has felt increasingly the need to insure that the impetus, trajectory, and momentum of the TASIS approach to education, developed also by the unique personalities, styles, and contributions of the people who have most sympathized and helped to shape it with their unique contributions, will not be lost. "Around and around the world is whirled, / And perhaps because she is so whirled she is so called," and the excitement of liberty and innovation, the newness of the world to every new student and teacher, and to every new generation, is part of the beauty of the world, perhaps especially of the world of TASIS. But an educational institution also needs steady direction, ballast for the long sail in shifting seas, and clear-eyed, far-seeing officers and educators who know the longer-term values, virtues, and accomplishments that good schools should serve: constants, not just variables. Mrs. Fleming liked to quote the saying, "Times change; values don't," and along with their many competent colleagues of dedicated goodwill, Bill Eichner and David Jepson will help to assure that the TASIS schools survive and prosper as instruments of the good and the true.

# SHE DOES IT ALL

*Mathematics teacher Kerry Venchus wins the 2017 Khan-Page Award*



Every year since 2009, TESIS has selected a teacher for its highest honor, the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award. Named for teachers Akbar Khan and Max P. Page, this award recognizes an outstanding teacher who represents a high standard of professional pedagogy, possesses advanced subject-area knowledge, and has a capacity to convey the joy and importance of learning to students.

The 2017 recipient is Mathematics teacher Kerry Venchus, who has worked at TESIS since 2009. According to Academic Dean Dr. Mark Abisi, “Kerry has exceedingly high standards for her students, and she works tirelessly and thoughtfully to help students meet these standards. She believes in the potential of each one of her students and is dedicated to helping each student reach that potential. In her AP Calculus class, she has had 22 students in the past two years, and 19 of them have earned a perfect AP score of 5. Kerry holds additional classes on weekends and evenings, and her students willingly attend because they know that it is time well spent.”

He continues, “Kerry has been an outspoken advocate for an enhanced professional development program at TESIS and has worked closely with me to help structure in-house professional development opportunities. She has facilitated many sessions and regularly attends courses and workshops to improve her craft. She is committed to professional growth both for herself and her after colleagues. Of Kerry, Lyle Rigg says, “I marvel at all

she is able to juggle so well. I have always found Kerry to be supportive and eager to do whatever she can to help improve our community. If Kerry sounds ‘too good to be true,’ I should add that she also plays the violin for many school performances! From stellar math teacher to kickboxer to Cambodia Global Service leader to dorm parent to musician, Kerry does it all.”

Kerry was a Math major at Wheaton College in Massachusetts and minored in Spanish and Education. She got her Master’s in Curriculum and Instructional Technology while she was teaching at her first school in Boston.

“I encourage my students to develop a ‘growth’ mindset instead of a ‘fixed’ mindset,” she says, “and I believe in challenging students to become problem solvers and critical thinkers. I like to create high standards and then help students reach them. I also hope that I’m helping students see the big picture—that there’s more to life than just success in school and that being a good person who is mindful, kind, and honest is important as well.”

One draw to TESIS for Kerry was the international aspect. “Students from all around the world come here and learn together in a stunning environment. The school culture here helps break down barriers that might be formed from previous prejudices,” she says. “You get to see that people are people, and while we are all individuals, we also share many traits.”

Along with her service as a teacher, Kerry enjoys her work with the Cambodia Global Service Program group. “Many students have said it changed their lives, which is definitely the best thing you can hear: that you’ve helped a student see the world differently or see that there are problems in the world where people need help. That’s a measure of success.”

Kerry is one of the teachers truly embodying the spirit of the Khan-Page Award and Mrs. Fleming. “One of the reasons I came here was Mrs. Fleming’s philosophy of creating internationally minded people and bringing them together to create a better world. That really resonated within me, and I like that it is a focus of the School.”

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

## September:

In late September we welcomed poet **Aimee Nezhukumatathil** to campus as our first **Jacob Fund** resident. Aimee has published three award-winning books of poetry and serves as Professor of English at the State University of New York – Fredonia. During her time on campus, Aimee visited a number of classes and gave a special reading in the Palmer Center.



*Aimee Nezhukumatathil*

Named for **Linda Buchanan Jacob '66**, the Jacob Fund was created after Linda's death in 2014 to entice and inspire TASIS students to share her passion for poetry, which began during her time at TASIS. The fund provides support for a biennial poet-in-residence program to bring poets to campus to engage with students and encourage their creativity and appreciation.

## October:

"I can say that I maintained my composure pretty well, but inside I was jumping from happiness," wrote **Anastasia Kolesnikova '18** about the moments before she got to visit CERN as part of the IB Physics Academic Travel trip. With an itinerary to excite even the most stoic of future particle physicists, this annual trip gives TASIS students a remarkable opportunity to visit nuclear and

hydroelectric power plants, the largest wind farm in Switzerland, and one of the biggest solar power plants in Switzerland. The visit to the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) is always the highlight.

But for Anastasia and her group, things didn't go exactly to plan at CERN. "We went through heavy doors, put on helmets, took the elevator down to the collider, exited,



*Students at CERN*

and went through the data storage room and down a corridor until we reached a dead end." There, they were told that the group was unable to go inside due to maintenance work. "Let's face it, I knew it was going too well to be true," Anastasia wrote. "But I stayed positive, and lunch at the CERN cafeteria, amidst all the scientists working there, cheered me up a lot because how cool is having lunch amidst the people who may be making history at the moment?!"

This sort of opportunity gives students insight into how their learning fits into the real world. As Anastasia wrote, "It's a different type of learning—a hands-on, see-it-feel-it-touch-it type of learning that is from my perspective as important and as needed as the classroom learning we have at school."

## November:

In November, the TESIS Theater Department performed Carlo Goldini's classic Italian comedy *The Servant of Two Masters*.



This year's Senior Humanities Program speakers inspired and enlightened the TESIS community with speakers including scientists, writers, and humanitarians.

November's featured speaker was Afghan-born humanitarian and author **Heela Najibullah**. She has spent a decade working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the fields of forced migration and disaster management, serving the most vulnerable groups in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka. Her first book, *Reconciliation and Social Healing in Afghanistan*, was published in January 2017.

Other SHP speakers this year included journalist **John Hooper**, current Italy correspondent for *The Economist* and a Contributing Editor of *The Guardian*. He discussed his latest book, *The Italians*, which examines contemporary Italy.

In January, TESIS welcomed pioneering filmmakers **Zach Ingrasci** and **Chris Temple** (pictured below).



Program, included talks on the duo's award-winning documentaries *Living on One Dollar* and *Salam Neighbor*.

February brought writer and educator **Steven Hahn**, who spent time with students in English and Theater classes and talked about how stories work, then illustrated his points by dissecting an episode of *The Twilight Zone*.

**Dr. Jeffrey Reimer**, Chair of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at University of California, Berkeley, was the fifth speaker. Dr. Reimer spent time with students in a number of science classes during the course of his two days on campus. His lecture discussed the severity of climate change and focused on the feasibility of carbon capture.

## December:

The annual All-School Christmas Service took place at the beautiful Church of San Nicolao della Flüe on December 6. The service featured a series of readings and a number of moving instrumental and choral performances and included talented students from every TESIS grade.

## January:



In January, TESIS became the first Swiss school to gain approval for a **Cum Laude Society** chapter. TESIS has the world's 383rd chapter of the prestigious Society, which was founded in 1906 to honor superior scholastic achievement in secondary schools.

Unlike the National Honor Society, which works with public high schools in North America and strongly considers a student's leadership, service, and character, the Cum Laude Society places its greatest emphasis on a student's scholarly contributions.



Six seniors and three juniors were inducted into the inaugural TESIS chapter (pictured above): **Charlotte Colombo '18, Hannah Gage '17, Kirill Krupenin '17, Aida Loggiodice '17, Niccolo McConnell '17, Adam Novak '17, Bryan Soh '18, Laura Vecoli '17, and Shu Ye '18.**

**February:**



*Middle School students at their annual International Week Brunch. See page 5 to read reflections on this special tradition by Headmaster Lyle Rigg.*

**The Best Day: Ski Adventure 2017**  
**by Brian Soh '18**

Deep powder was everywhere and we finally got to venture off-piste, shredding untouched patches of fresh snow, pulling off little 180s and ollies from small bumps. I was ecstatic. If you have never ridden in fresh powder on a snowboard before, you're missing out on a lot in life. It's a sensation that cannot be compared to anything else—as close to heaven as it can get.

I honestly think that there is nothing more fun than snowboarding or skiing with your friends—no better way to bond with them and make so many memories. From the tiniest of stupid falls to the pure pleasure of cruising down big, wide slopes with a breathtaking view in front of you, some things are only experienced on the slopes and nowhere else, which makes it all the more memorable.

**March:**

**A Week of IB Immersion**

More than 50 IB II students looking to gain an edge heading into their spring exams traveled to Siena in Tuscany, where they spent their mornings in mindfulness seminars and taking mock exams and afternoons going on IB Art History excursions and attend subjects. This first-time



*IB Prep students studying during their time in Tuscany*

Academic Travel trip was organized by IB Coordinator **Howard Stickleby**, who felt it was a big success.

“I was impressed by the seriousness with which the students approached the activities on the trip,” Howard said. “It is always encouraging to hear students asking for more opportunities to study and seeing them forming their own independent study groups outside of the scheduled sessions.”

Students returned to campus with a full two months to focus on review before the May exam session. That review can now be informed and shaped by what they learned during their week away. “I would be surprised if many students don’t pick up extra points, and this can make a big difference in the final outcome,” said Mr. Stickleby, who plans to make this IB trip an annual affair.

#### **April:**

The **Global Service Program (GSP)** continues to change lives locally and globally. This year, GSP trips took students around the world to work for organizations committed to making the world a better place. Trips to India, Morocco, Ethiopia, Nepal, Zambia, Cambodia, and Romania inspired TASIS students in remarkable ways.

**Ekaterina Plotnikova '18** worked with children at an orphanage in Romania:

*Every day was magical. It felt like we were in a completely different world because every second was*

*life-changing for all of us. We talked a lot about what we are blessed for, what we worry about, and how we can improve our service to the homeless children in Romania. I loved every second I spent with them, and I always had a thought in my mind: How are they so wonderful and smart, so loving and modest, and yet nobody wants them? I just simply do not understand how fate chooses our destiny because any one of us could be a part of that institution.*

**Amelia Panella '18** visited Cambodia:

*“What now?” we were asked on our last night in Cambodia as we sat in our group reflecting on the past 10 days. “What are you going to do now?” Each and every one of us knew then that our journey with service was far from over. What we had learned and experienced in those 10 days made us realize that the service we had come to give to the people of Cambodia could never amount to how much they had given us. It had left us with the restless feeling of needing to do more. This trip awakened me to the true meaning of service and opened my eyes to a reality to which I was once very blind.*

*I won't speak for the group, but for myself. There are no words to truly describe my experience on this trip, but the feeling of being at one with the Cambodian people, seeing the passion and energy of the children, surrounding myself in Khmer culture, will stay with me forever. It's an indescribable feeling you can only experience for yourself.*



*Lending a hand with Romania's Hope and Homes for Children*



*Students pose with Cambodian children*

So, “What now?” It’s not a question I can fully answer yet, but what I can say is that this experience has left me with eyes open, aware of the world around me, and with memories of an unforgettable experience. But most importantly I know that there’s always more. More to say, more to do, more to see, and more to learn. And now I need to say more, do more, see more, and learn more.

**Bryan Soh '18** was also on the Cambodia trip:

*By forming partnerships with organizations like Tabitha and Caring for Cambodia, we had the opportunity to see how different people are trying to aid this country in getting back on its feet. In the span of a mere six hours, we and some villagers successfully finished building six houses for Tabitha-sponsored families in a village in Siem Reap. (By building, I mean nailing sheets of tin to the outside of the houses as walls and nailing planks of wood to the bottom of the house for the floor.) To see the heartfelt gratefulness in the villagers’ eyes as they said their blessings when we presented blankets as a token of our well-wishes for their new home was genuinely touching and made all the frustration of trying to nail the nails correctly worth it. It still amazes me at how not even half a day of my time can be used to build a home for a family that will last much longer and is much larger than their previous one. Seeing the smiles of the exhilarated children who rushed up the stairs and into the house warmed my heart and put a smile on my face, too.*

Visit the TASIS blog to read more student stories about their Global Service trips.

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To continue the celebration of 60 Years of TASIS, the High School Theater Department put forth three inspired performances of ***MCF: What a Life!***, an original musical by Todd Fletcher about Mrs. Fleming’s incredible life (pictured, top right). Elementary School Head **Theresa Cullen Hill** dazzled in the starring role of the older Mrs. Fleming and an outstanding student ensemble breathed new life into the many colorful characters who help weave the remarkable tale that was M. Crist Fleming’s life. Watch the performance on the TASIS website.

See pages 11-17 for our Graduation Week coverage.

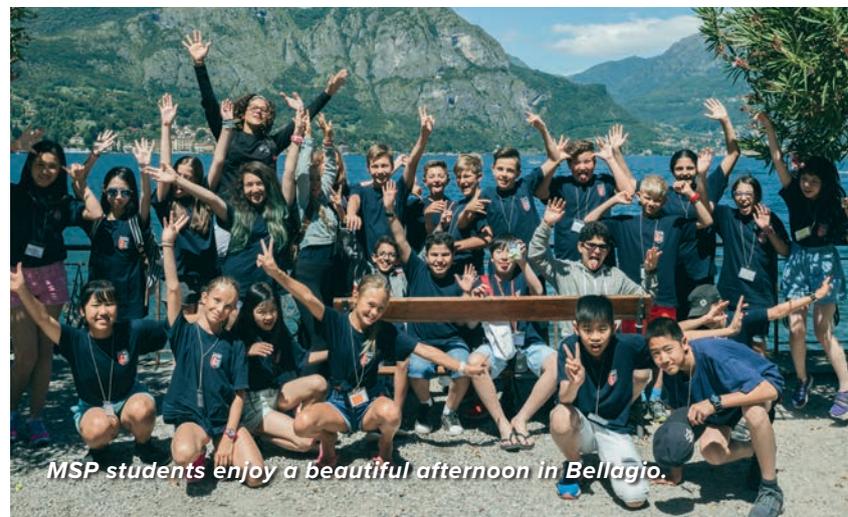


Students perform MCF: What a Life!

### June, July, August:

Once again, TASIS personele worked their magic to transform the campus for our Summer Programs within a few short turnaround days. The campus welcomed over 800 students this summer in two sessions, with 221 in Le Château des Enfants (CDE, ages 4½–10), 248 in the Middle School Program (MSP, ages 11–13) and 337 in the TASIS Summer Program (TSP, ages 14–18).

Students participated in a variety of academic classes, from languages to photography, musical theater to cooking. Travel to destinations such as Rome, Venice, Turin, and Zurich gave students a taste of city life, while trips to Andermatt, Zermatt, and Interlaken were perfect for those who crave adventure. Day trips included a cooking class in Milan, canyoning or rafting the Ticino River, and sketching architecture in Riva San Vitale. Coupled with a robust cultural activities calendar and exciting afternoon activities, the Summer Programs continue to give students of over 40 nationalities and from 78 different countries a wonderful taste of TASIS life.



MSP students enjoy a beautiful afternoon in Bellagio.

# HISTORY OF THE MASTER PLAN AND THE TESIS FAMILY OF PATRONS



In 1996, TESIS engaged classical architect and urban designer David Mayernik to develop a Master Plan for the TESIS campus. The result is a long-term plan tailored to the needs of our School which also serves as a model for the world as an ideal academic community. The guiding idea of the Master Plan is to create a village environment to foster a sense of community, complete with green spaces, open piazzas, and beautiful, multifunctional buildings. TESIS has become renowned as an example and advocate of sustainable campus design.

The successful development of the Global Village over the past twenty years has been possible thanks to the most generous and ongoing support of parents,

friends, and alumni. It is our pleasure to recognize and thank our donors who continue to enrich and support the vision of Mrs. Fleming by building a campus of great beauty for the positive shaping of current and future generations of students in the highest and noblest traditions of civilization. Please join the TESIS family of Patrons.

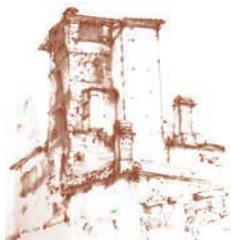


# TASIS GLOBAL VILLAGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS 2004-2017

All TASIS schools and programs are based on Mrs. Fleming's educational principles, which are symbolized in the TASIS crest.

## TOWER SUMMIT

The Tower stands  
for culture (humanitas)



Ferit Şahenk '83	\$3,000,000	Şahenk Fine Arts Center
John E. Palmer '64	\$2,600,000	Palmer Cultural Center

## SUNBEAMS

The Sun represents  
truth (veritas)



Nicholas Major PG'68	\$400,000	Valzonico ES Classrooms
David & Maria Chan	\$400,000	MCF Library & Campo Science
Paulise & Rick Bell PG'65	\$350,000	Palmer Center & Campo Science
Helsinn Healthcare	\$310,000	Campo Science
Amb. & Mrs. John Pritzlaff	\$300,000	MCF Library
Robert S. Perkin PG'66	\$300,000	MCF Library, Palmer Center, & Campo Science
Birgitta & Jan Opsahl '68	\$275,000	Palmer Center & Campo Science
Amb. Holland Coors & family	\$250,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Anonymous	\$250,000	Campo Science

## LAMPLIGHTERS

The Lamp symbolizes  
wisdom (sapientia)



Yvonne & Steve Maloney PG'61	\$150,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Deborah & Gabriel Brener	\$150,000	Campo Science

TASIS Parent Association	\$140,000	Campo Science
Curtis McGraw Webster '75	\$130,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Jane Goldman '74	\$125,000	MCF Library
Donald MacDermid '61	\$120,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Barnes Brooks '90	\$100,000	MCF Library
VF International	\$100,000	Palmer Center
Carlo & Giuseppina Pagani	\$100,000	Campo Science
Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l. Foundation	\$100,000	Campo Science
Anonymous	\$100,000	Campo Science

## BOOK CIRCLE

The Book means  
knowledge (scientia)



Hixon Glore	\$90,000	Palmer Center
Anonymous	\$86,000	Campo Science
Minoru & Nayara Yumi Dondo '16	\$85,000	Campo Science
Amy & John Gage '60	\$75,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Anonymous	\$60,000	Campo Science
Curtis W. McGraw Foundation	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Harry Belin	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Roberto & Claude Vaglietti	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Richard & Anne Mastain	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Gov. & Mrs. Bola Tinubu	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Maude PG'67 & Frederick Glore	\$50,000	Campo Science
Lam Wai Leung & Deng Ru Jun	\$50,000	Campo Science
Zvetan Zanev	\$50,000	Campo Science
Menno De Kant	\$30,000	Palmer Center
Kathy Pitner '62	\$25,000	MCF Library
Richard & Penelope Hansen	\$25,000	MCF Library
Lloyd & Annegret De Vos	\$25,000	Palmer Center
Leon & Kathy Streit	\$25,000	Campo Science
Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80	\$20,000	Palmer Center
Max & Melissa Gygax	\$20,000	Campo Science
Gianni & Beatrice Patuzzo	\$10,000	Campo Science
Orlun Zorlu	\$10,000	Campo Science

# GLOBAL VILLAGE UPDATE



## Existing:

- 1) M. Crist Fleming Library, classrooms, & dorm
- 2) Monticello classrooms & dorm
- 3) Casetta offices
- 4) Palestra Sports Center
- 5) Lanterna faculty apartments, classrooms, & dorm
- 6) Lanterna classrooms & dorm

- 7) Fiammetta classrooms
- 9) Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center & Palestrina gym
- 10) Palmer Cultural Center
- 12) Villa De Nobili dorm, offices, health center, & dining
- 13) Campo Science Center
- 14) Belvedere dorm & classrooms
- 15) Balmelli dorm

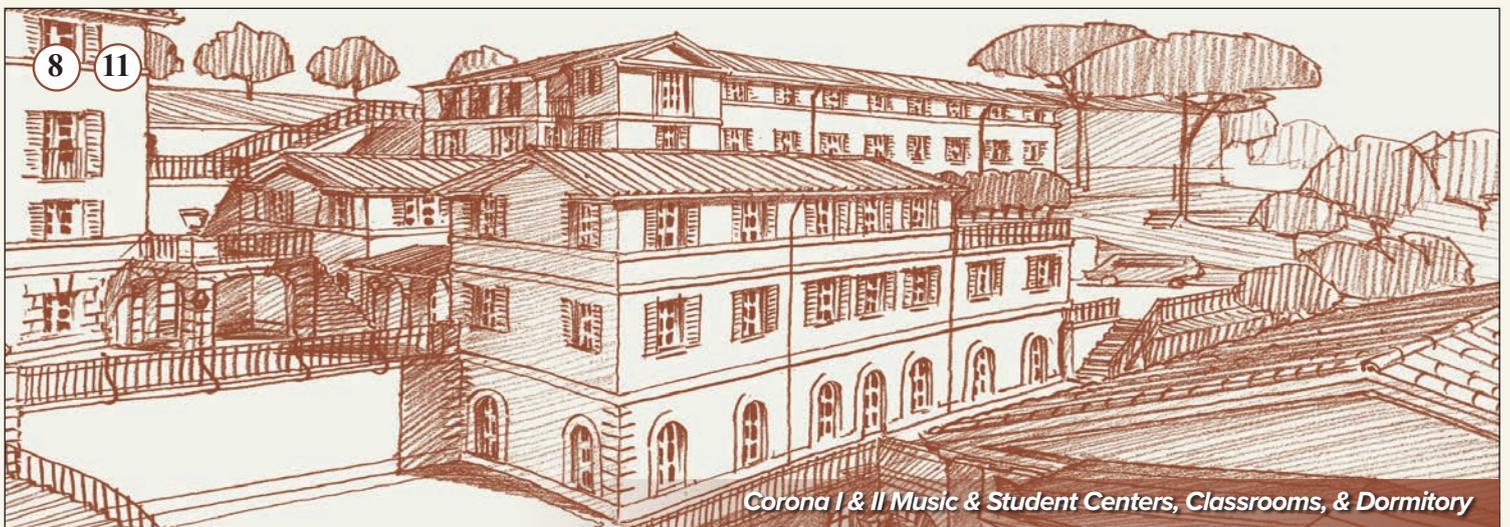


- 16) Del Sole dorm
- 17) Ca' Piccola dorm
- 18) Aurora classrooms
- 19) Casa Fleming
- 21) Hadsall dorm & ES classrooms
- 22) Casa Italiana classrooms
- 25) Scuderia dorm
- 26) Giani dorm

**To be built:**

- 8 & 11) Corona classrooms, dorm, and student & music centers
- 22) Valzonico Elementary School classrooms
- 23) Hadsall Terrace ES classrooms
- 24) Hadsall South Wing Elementary School
- 27) Campo playing field
- 28) Basketball court, pool, & changing rooms

# THE MASTER PLAN: HELP US BUILD THE FUTURE



The **TASIS Global Village** is an internationally recognized model of stewardship and sustainability. Completing the Global Village requires dedication, hard work, and financial support over many years. The challenge is enormous and exciting! Since its founding in 1956, TASIS has established its reputation as the oldest and finest American boarding school in Europe, and as we realize our Global Village Master Plan we also have the most beautiful campus in Europe: a shining light for Ticino and a proud expression of America's contributions to international culture.

# ON INSPIRING YOUNG SCHOLARS

## *Meet three veteran TISIS teachers*

*Diana Kuznetsova '18 sat down with High School French Teacher **Brigitte Cazebonne**, who has taught at TISIS since 1993 and was the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award recipient in 2012.*



*Brigitte Cazebonne with her students on an Academic Travel trip to Lyon*

### **When did you start at TISIS, what classes do you teach, and what else have you been involved with?**

I came to TISIS years ago in 1993, and I've been involved in many aspects of TISIS. Of course I've primarily been a French teacher, but I've also worked in the dorm and in sports activities. At one point I was the coordinator for weekend travel, and I've also helped coordinate Academic Travel. I feel like I've done a lot.

### **Describe your educational background and your career in education prior to TISIS.**

I did my undergraduate studies in the US because I left France right after my baccalaureate, and I majored in Music. At first I was a music teacher, and then I did a graduate course in Tours, France. I taught mostly in the US before coming to TISIS. All my positions were at college preparatory schools. I later studied at Cambridge University for my master's degree.

### **Can you please briefly describe your teaching philosophy?**

First of all, it is not set in stone. It has evolved throughout my long teaching career in the US as well as at TISIS. I was also greatly influenced by my teachers when I was growing up in France. I was very lucky to have had excellent teachers—not just teachers in high school but also in elementary school. I feel that we don't give enough credit to our elementary school teachers. They are the ones that deal with us first, and they are the ones that really make a great first impression on us.

I was also very fortunate and very privileged to have had an excellent French teacher who introduced me to the philosophy of Michel Eyquem de Montaigne, who discussed education and said, "*Mieux vaut une tête bien faite qu'une tête bien pleine.*" [Loose translation: Well-structured knowledge is better than simply quantitative knowledge.]

I always put my students at the center of my teaching. But I will not teach every class and every student the same way. Because my students are different, my teaching needs to be different.

### **What do you like the most about working as TISIS?**

I like being a member of the Modern Language Department. I see it as a privilege to have the colleagues I have. It's a strong department. We discuss everything and have a great working relationship.

Working at TISIS has given me the opportunity to have a real career. I've been able to do so many things. I've been able to teach in two different languages [EAL and French], and I've also taught all the levels. So it's been really nice to have a full and rewarding career. I think that's what I like the most about TISIS—the fact that I've been given the opportunity to do this.

**What would you say has been your biggest success at TASIS?**

I don't think I've had one great success—I feel I've had a series of successes. For example, I consider it a success when I have a beginner student in French 1 who only joins the class because of the parents' decision but then starts liking the class and reacts to my teaching—so much so that the student wants to participate as much as possible and enjoys learning all those French phonetics to the point that he or she begins to correct other students in the class.

I also feel that I have had success when an IB student comes to me and says, "I want to get a 6 or a 7—do you think I can get a 7?" And I always say, "Of course. If you work hard, anything is possible." Then it's also the way the students will get me involved in their work. Sometimes they come after school—they know that I work in my little world, in my little classroom at certain hours—and they will sit there and work at the same time and ask questions. I find that this is also success because it shows that they trust me.

Another success is when I encounter a former student and they address me in French. I feel that's incredible. I haven't seen them in years, and they address me in French, and often it's very good French because they have continued to study the language or they use it at work.

I don't feel that one is greater than another because they are all very important to me. But it's always related to the student—always.

**What do you envision for your students?**

This touches on sadness for me because I've seen how the world has changed. I've seen what has happened in France in the past few years, and I've seen what has happened in the world. I'm worried about my students—I really am. I feel that they'll have to live in a world that has changed. I just hope they can live in a world that is free of terrorism, that is free of danger—that they can have a full life and achieve what they want to achieve peacefully, to have what

they want, and of course to continue speaking French, so that when I meet them again one day, they will address me in French. That I really enjoy.

**Is there anything else you would like to share?**

It's weird for me to be interviewed because I'm always the one who asks questions. But I'm particularly pleased that it is you, Diana, who is doing the interview. I've enjoyed it. Merci!

*Shu Ye '18 interviewed veteran Architecture & Design and Art History Teacher **Mark Aeschliman**, who has degrees in English, Fine Art, Art History, Italian Language & Literature, and Architectural History. Mark was the School's second Khan-Page Master Teacher Award recipient in 2010.*



**When did you start at TASIS, what classes do you teach, and what else are you involved with at TASIS?**

I started my career at TASIS in January 1979. There was an unexpected opening because two teachers left at Christmas and did not come back, and they

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happened to be teachers of things I was qualified to teach. I've been here ever since, with a couple of years away and a half-year sabbatical.

I teach Architecture & Design and Art History. I have been a part of the Senior Humanities Program in recent years as well.

**Can you please describe your educational background and your career in education prior to TASIS?**

I have undergraduate degrees in English, Fine Art, and Art History—a triple major from the University of Vermont. I have master's degrees in Italian Language & Literature and Art History from Middlebury College and Syracuse University. I also have all but the dissertation from the University of Pennsylvania in Architectural History, but I went back to TASIS before finishing the Ph.D.

My career in education prior to TASIS consisted of teaching English in Naples, where I lived briefly before I came to TASIS, but I've been here for my entire career from the age of 24.

**Can you briefly describe your teaching philosophy?**

I am a great admirer of Louis Kahn, who was a great teacher of architecture. He said, "You don't teach a class, you teach a student." Following his guidance, I try to tailor my assignments to each of my students while at the same time basing them on the principles of the IB curriculum.

I also believe that art history is the Trojan Horse without its violent aspect. Looking from the outside, it is just a wooden horse; however, inside the horse there are Greek soldiers who have powers to destroy Troy. The surface of art history is all these masterpieces and historical contexts, but if you observe from inside, there is more going on than just visual art. The arts are a great reflection of the society as a whole—its moral values, philosophy, and even politics and economy. I want my students to look into the depth of envioning conditions.

**What do you like most about working at TASIS?**

I find TASIS to be a very stimulating environment because I've typically had very motivated students through the years. I get to teach things that are especially important to me and stimulate me personally. As an artist, I have had some shows of my own. Teaching these two subjects is a good feeder for my own work. I am enjoying the curriculum that I teach: AP Art History, IB Art History and Visual Art, and regular-leveled architecture. And at TASIS I have the opportunity to lead Academic Travel trips to places that are relevant to the teaching.

**What would you say has been your greatest success at TASIS?**

My greatest success at TASIS has been building relationships with the students who trust me. I think my greatest strength is my ability to establish an atmosphere of trust with the students and find a way to bring the best out of them. I have had a certain amount of success with that over the years.

**Is there anything you want to achieve at TASIS?**

As time goes by, I am more and more interested in the idea of a study guide to Roman and Renaissance art and architecture. I am not going to write a book because there are plenty of books out there. It will be a text that facilitates the course for my students, especially those who enroll in IB Art History. This course is very challenging because it involves a lot of complicated writing, so I am thinking about bringing materials together that will form a textbook or a study guide for them.

**Could you please recommend a book you have your students read?**

There are plenty of books that are very good. There is one that students [and alumni!] should read that has to do with Ticino because I think a lot of TASIS students are not especially knowledgeable about this place we live in. It's a really good short book by Max Frisch called *Man in the Holocene*. It's the story of an old man who is losing his mind, and he is in a rainstorm here in Ticino. It is absolutely filled with information about the region we live in—the

mountains, the trees, the dinosaurs, the glaciers, the Romans, and all kinds of things that are very stimulating to know because we are constantly faced with geological time. Every time you look out the window, you see those mountains, and they remind you how old the earth is, how young we people are, and what a short time we all have to live.

**Anastasia Kolesnikova '18** sat down with **Carolyn Heard**, who received the School's inaugural Khan-Page Master Teacher Award in 2009. Carolyn also chairs the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department.



### **When did you start at TASIS?**

I started my job teaching in the EAL Department in 2000.

### **Can you please describe your educational background and career in education prior to coming to TASIS?**

I attended Middlebury College in Vermont and spent my junior year abroad in Paris. I majored in French and German. I also had the opportunity to study Italian at Middlebury and attended the summer language programs as well. During my undergraduate years, I was immersed in the study of modern language, as well as theater, English, and art. I had no idea I was going to have a career in education. What I did in college was focus on the things that interested me without worrying too much about a career path, and I was extremely lucky to be able to do that.

After I left college, I went to New York City—I had some friends there—and for two years I didn't really know what I wanted to do with my life, so I just sort of drifted from one job to the next so that I could pay my rent. At a certain point, I met someone who was an instructor at the City University of New York. She was actually my roommate—we were living in Columbia University housing at that time. We talked a lot about teaching, and she inspired me to go into education myself.

I decided to go to graduate school at New York University. At that time I couldn't afford to pay the fees, but a kind professor in the School of Education told me about a scheme whereby if you worked full-time at NYU, you were entitled to tuition remission. Once again I was extremely lucky, because on the very day I spoke with that professor, a position had opened up in the Department of French and Italian, and the job seemed tailor-made for me. I was very interested in being in an environment where I could speak those languages and be around brilliant scholars and academics, and that's exactly what I got with this job.

Working there led to what were probably the most intellectually stimulating years of my life. The Department of French and Italian at NYU had scores

of very intellectually gifted and active students and professors who organized events attended by very interesting, and a number of very famous people—scholars, writers, actors, film directors, you name it. I was really dazzled by the exposure to this world of the intellect and cultural enrichment, and realized how much I loved being in such an environment.

After graduate school, I got a job at the American Language Institute. The people who hired me put a lot of faith in me, and I sort of learned on the job. It was scary at first, teaching my first class at university, but at the same time stimulating and exciting. The students were wonderful, my colleagues were wonderful, and as the years passed, I grew more and more comfortable and confident as an instructor. But my ultimate goal was to live and teach in Europe, so I was fortunate to be hired by TASIS in 2000.

#### **What brought you to Switzerland?**

I had taught at TASIS previously, when on hiatus from NYU, as well as in TASIS summer schools in England, France, and Spain, and it was through Chris Frost, a former headmaster, that I was able to get this job. I already had Ticinesi friends in Lugano, and knew Switzerland pretty well from my many visits here.

#### **What would you say has been your greatest success here so far?**

What gives me the greatest sense of accomplishment and satisfaction is when I hear from former students. One time a student wrote and said she had gotten an award for Excellence in English at the school that she had transferred to, and she felt that a lot of that she owed to having taken my classes. Other times I've heard back from students who have gone to college and been exempted from the mandatory Freshman English course because they had done well on a writing test, and they would write to me to thank me for my teaching. Obviously, they were very good students to begin with, but I like to think that I had something to do with their success, and that, in turn, gives me a feeling of success.

#### **Can you describe your teaching philosophy?**

My philosophy of teaching begins with concern not only for the goals that we set out to students in terms of their achievement here at TASIS, but also for what they'll need for university and beyond. It's the teacher's job to show students the importance of what's on the program and help them develop their linguistic and communicative competence accordingly, as well as to equip them to participate fully in a world of changing knowledge, cultivating in them intellectual curiosity about things that are worth knowing and exploring.

I want students to be both comfortable in the classroom and inspired to learn. I want to stimulate their thinking about the way the language works and about the questions of culture that are not only behind the vocabulary and the idioms we use, but also in the literature we read and the topics that come up in the course of our studies. I like to blend the cognitive approach—that is the explicit teaching of grammar and syntax, along with the mechanics of writing—with a communicative approach: getting students to enjoy day-to-day, informal interactions with the teacher and with each other. I'm hoping that in the two years of intensive instruction in reading, speaking, vocabulary development, and writing, students will be well-equipped to carry on learning at more advanced levels.

#### **What's the best part about teaching?**

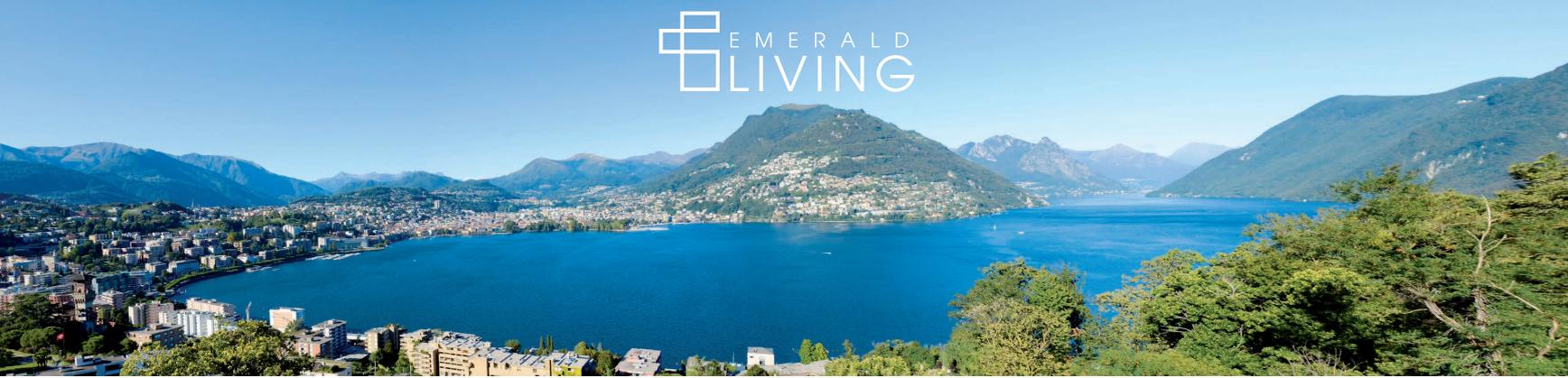
It's the feeling of connecting with the students. That's why the teaching always gets better and better as the year goes on.

There's also the feeling of working together towards a common goal. And certainly that feeling, I think, is pretty strong toward the end of the year—the end of the two years, especially—when most students finally come to the realization that my ultimate goal is to help them gain fluency, academic proficiency, and a fuller understanding of the topics that have been discussed. I might be a stern taskmaster at times, and I might crack the whip—that's not always a picnic—but at the end of the day I think they understand that it is all for their benefit.

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# ROOTED IN THE NOBLE PAST

## *Musicologist Eric Wen '70 on Preserving the Classics*



“It seems uncanny that music has the power to touch us so deeply,” says **Professor Eric Wen '70**, musicologist and teacher of music theory and music analysis at such prestigious New York City institutions as Juilliard and the Graduate Center (CUNY), and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Wen is one of a select few musicologists leading the charge to keep music theory and analysis at the forefront of university-level music education, ensuring the legacy of the great classical tradition of high-cultural Western music.

Eric has dedicated his life to musicology, the academic study of music, which is divided into history and theory. History includes not just the composers' lives and works but also the history of how the works have been performed throughout the years. Theory is the study of the notes, including harmony, counterpoint, and ear training, all of which Eric feels are essential to those learning to compose music. He also is an expert on music analysis, which focuses on the logic found in a

piece of music and how it works as an entity. This depth of knowledge places Eric firmly in the middle of a recent debate among those in music academia: how important is music theory to the study of music?

“There is a trend today to regard ‘classical music’ as overly specialized and somewhat elitist,” he says. “This is reflected in the move away from the Western classical canon. This change seems to be endemic among academia as a whole.” Eric uses Harvard’s recent overhaul of its music curriculum, which has eliminated the music theory requirement, as an example. “I would hate to think that the amazing music of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and Brahms will slowly become less relevant than, and replaced by, pop and world music. It’s not that I have anything against other kinds of music, but I do feel that the flourishing of great music from the classical tradition is so profoundly vital, and needs to be preserved for the good of humanity!”

Eric wrote a book that is a partial response to the marginalization of classical music. *Structurally Sound* (Dover, 2017) discusses seven works dating from 1650 to 1900, including pieces by Bach, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms. “Contextualized within the long history of music, not to mention the wide diversity of cultural traditions around the world, this focus may seem conspicuously narrow,” Eric explains. “But I wanted to show that the Austro-German Classical tradition from which these seven pieces stem represents one of the noblest achievements in humankind.”

Eric feels that in this age of narrowly present-minded “political correctness,” we tend to view all artistic endeavors as equal in value, and the reverence for classics, such as paintings of the Italian Renaissance or 17th-century Dutch masters, as elitist. Eric even attended a conference lecture that equated the artistic merit of the “Beach Boys” with Beethoven. “I’m not saying that this or that composer is ‘better’ than another,” he says, “and

I believe that everyone is entitled to prefer one genre of music to another. Nevertheless, not to acknowledge that a symphony by Mozart or a painting by Rembrandt involves more craftsmanship than a riff in a pop song or graffiti art seems misguided to me. What I wanted to show in writing *Structurally Sound* is how remarkable some pieces of Western art music are, and how they represent the pinnacle of what can be achieved in musical art.”

Eric feels there are many valuable lessons to be learned from classical music, not least the amount of concentration required to experience a musical piece. “I believe that one of the reasons why classical music is less popular now is due to our expectation of instant access and gratification,” he says. Pop songs are 3-4 minutes; a symphonic movement by Beethoven is around ten minutes.

That said, music is still music – and is, as Eric says, “perhaps the most enigmatic of all the arts.” He breaks it down simply: “It comprises a sequence of sounds – formulated as distinct pitches and organized in different units of time – that can communicate the most intense and complex emotions.”

Eric explains: “In literature, words have distinct meanings, and a writer uses them to communicate a wide variety of ideas and depict real or imagined situations. In the visual arts, a painter or sculptor uses colors and shapes to portray events and people with striking realism or to convey an abstract impression. But music makes no reference to the external world; pitches that we call C-sharp or A-sharp have no intrinsic meaning by themselves. Yet when a composer puts such notes together, they can elicit powerful emotional responses.”

Eric feels that music can affect an amateur music lover as profoundly as it does a seasoned professional musician. “For those of us who are responsive to sounds, music offers a meaningful experience that enriches our lives. As it turns out, many people who are deeply passionate about music cannot read musical notation, let alone have any idea how a piece is put together. Since one can experience and appreciate music fully without knowing

anything about it, why analyze it? Music analysis sets out to explore how music works. Although it may not increase our enjoyment or love of music, it aims to bring us closer to understanding the remarkable language of pitches organized in time, and helps explain its uncanny but irresistible effect on us.”

Eric began studying the violin as a child and decided fairly early not to pursue a career in performance. He continued to study privately, including theory with renowned Schenkerian analyst Carl Schachter, while attending Columbia University as an English major. He received his master’s degree in music theory from Yale University and soon after was awarded a research fellowship at Cambridge University. He ended up living in London for nearly 20 years, keeping busy with various roles including editor of *The Strad* and *The Musical Times*, as well as director and executive producer at Biddulph Recordings. He also taught at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the University of London, and the Royal Academy of Music. He also performed with a French chamber group, L’ensemble Arpeggione, for several years in the late 1970s. His wife is English and two of his three children were born during his years in the UK.

Now living in New York, Eric also serves as principal editor of violin music for Carl Fischer Music Publishers. His writings on analytical and theoretical issues in music have been published in a variety of academic journals and essay collections.

Eric credits his experience at TASIS with planting the seed for an international life. “It was the most wonderful introduction to Europe when I was 15 years old. Because of my experience at TASIS, I became aware of European culture and how different that was from what I experienced in America. Of course, that was nearly half a century ago, and the differences between the US and Europe are much less now than then.” And as cultures continue to amalgamate and the noise of the digital world increases, we look to people like Eric Wen to help keep our knowledge rooted in what is noble that came before us.

# IT'S ELEMENTARY

*The first TASIS lifers graduate as the  
Elementary School celebrates its first 12 years*



*Susanna Zangheratti with her Italian Section students*

\* \* \*

*“Any intelligent young person will always...survive mediocre or inept university teaching,  
whereas no one can escape unharmed from a mediocre or inept primary school education.”*

*THIS should be THE issue of great concern.”*

*Pierre Ryckmans, a great contemporary Sinologist, The View from the Bridge: Aspects of Culture (1996)*

The Class of 2017 included our first TESIS Lifers: two students who began attending TESIS when the Elementary School opened its doors in the fall of 2005. In the ensuing 12 years the School has grown to a vibrant international community of 190 children from over 25 countries speaking more than 20 native languages.

The road to creating TESIS Elementary was a bumpy one. Founder Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 had been considering expanding TESIS to include younger children for over 25 years. "Things move slowly in Ticino," she says, "but Ticino long needed an English-language elementary school, especially in the competitive European and Swiss worlds to attract foreign companies with employees who would demand English schooling."

Mrs. Aeschliman faced much adversity over the years, not least from the Ticino government. Cantonal law requires children to be educated in Italian until age 15, and there was only a two-year exemption at the time, which she eventually succeeded in expanding to six years. The School continues to offer an American Section and an Italian Section to meet the needs of Ticino law and TESIS families. Plans are now to merge into unified sections per grade with mother-tongue English teachers as homeroom teachers, and pull students out for the specialized Italian courses.

But perhaps the more critical antagonist was the School itself. "I couldn't get the initial financial support from the cautious TESIS Foundation," Mrs. Aeschliman says, "and I had to find a property and a large bank mortgage myself."

Even Mrs. Fleming wasn't convinced that an Elementary School was the way forward. "She wondered where I would get the students," Mrs. Aeschliman recalls. "I said I would be happy to have nine students to start with, as that was all she had when she started TESIS." The Elementary School opened its doors in 2005 to 43 students, and this more than doubled to 91 the following year, then 134, and has settled in between 180 and 200 students every year since. "It took off in leaps and bounds," Mrs. Aeschliman said. "The timing was right."



*Teacher Rik Nijenhuis and a student*

Luxembourg-born **Dominikis "Mino" Kronwitter '17** was one of the students sitting in the white tent outside Hadsall the first day of TESIS ES. "It was a very happy time, looking back," he remembers. "There was a lot of change every year, since it was just starting up, but it was an adventure every year, a good one. Growing up with a place, it becomes a part of you."

Mino was fortunate to have known some English before starting at age five, but **Adam Novak '17** came to Lugano from Ukraine, speaking only Russian and Ukrainian. "I was absolutely terrified," Adam recalls of his first day as a five-year-old. "It was hard, but then again some of my fondest memories are from elementary school."

Exposure to various languages at such a young age is one of many wonderful benefits of the Elementary School. Adam feels that after two years his English was strong, and after five years he knew Italian. He started learning French in high school and graduated this spring fluent in five languages.

The proof of the long-term effects of the Elementary School can be found in our recent graduates. "I liked how the teachers instilled in me this sense of curiosity for learning, and I've kept that since," says Mino. "I'm

always curious about all of my subjects and I'm never really bored. My elementary teachers taught me how to become academic."

Adam agrees: "We had very good math classes," he says of the Singapore Math curriculum, "and I got a good linguistic foundation." Indeed, Adam was Valedictorian in 2017 and took nine AP classes during his junior and senior years, achieving 4s or 5s on all of his exams.

The foundation that students receive from the Elementary School obviously has paid off for students like Mino and Adam, thanks to the robust Core Knowledge curriculum. "We knew from the start the approach we wanted was the very best and strongest for elementary education," Mrs. Aeschliman says. "Fortunately, as the founder of something completely new, and assisted by my educational-expert husband [Dr. Michael D. Aeschliman], I had the power and expertise to choose the curriculum without compromises and interest-group negotiation, which so often make educational efforts a muddle."

Mrs. Aeschliman chose phonics as the foundation for literacy instruction ("We had a distinguished American expert, Susan DeWinter of Boston, come and give workshops to teachers each autumn for the first several years") and the Singapore Math program: "Singapore Math is really the strongest math curriculum," Mrs. Aeschliman said. "We need to learn from other countries or cultures when they do something better than we do: that's one thing internationalism means!"

Core Knowledge is a demanding curriculum created by educational scholar E.D. Hirsch. The content-rich, sequential program is designed to promote equality in education by building a base of cultural literacy, providing students with a survey of subjects in language arts, history and geography, visual arts, music, mathematics, and science that all students should know by the end of 8th grade. "It very clearly specifies curriculum—topics and texts—and thus restricts teachers' autonomy," Mrs. Aeschliman says. "But it increases specific content, makes horizontal (class-level) and vertical (across grade



*Tia Zanecchia helps a student*

levels) coordination possible, and provides both transparency for parents and school authorities, and accountability in course content and for teacher-effectiveness evaluations.”

TASIS and TASIS England have been at the forefront of implementing the Core Knowledge approach, which is having an increasing influence in European educational thinking. Educational authorities in England have adapted the Core Knowledge sequence for use in state primary schools, with support from advocates on both the center-right and center-left. Countries such as France, Italy, and Spain are showing interest in the curriculum as well.

The Aeschlimans were able to hire all of TASIS Elementary School’s original teachers and made Core Knowledge delivery a condition of employment. The School sent teachers to workshops and seminars and also hired Core Knowledge advocates for various roles to nurture both faculty and families as they embraced the program. Nyman Brooks, a Core Knowledge and phonics supporter, was at the helm for six years and helped to solidify TASIS as a Core Knowledge school. Boston University graduate Julia Wilkins spent five years as Core Knowledge Coordinator and was “particularly good at finding ways to make this approach memorable for the students in activities beyond the classroom,” Mrs. Aeschliman says. “Nyman and Julia did not always get the support they deserved, but I did my best behind the scenes. Fortunately, Lyle Rigg, David Jepson, and new headmaster Chris Nikoloff were and are supportive of Core Knowledge, as is current Head Theresa Cullen Hill.”

Mino and Adam are two of many success stories of this fusion of Core Knowledge and Mrs. Fleming’s values of culture, wisdom, knowledge, truth, and beauty. Mrs. Aeschliman echoes Mino’s comments that one of the highlights of the past 12 years is “the success of our students in really learning and loving to learn. This is especially gratifying with students who come to us with no English and are speaking fluently and writing correctly within a year or two. One memorable case



*Students enjoy physical education class*

was Carlo Pagani ’12, whose parents later gave a classroom to our new science center in gratitude for the education he received. He went on to Northeastern University.”

Currently, the youngest Elementary School students attend classes at Al Focolare, a purpose-built building in Gentilino, minutes down the hill from the main TASIS campus. Older children attend classes in Hadsall and Aurora. In several years, however, our youngest students will see Hadsall transformed into an Elementary School complex that will include all grade levels.

Mrs. Aeschliman showed great vision when planning the Elementary School despite wariness from many. So how did she feel watching Mino and Adam walk across the stage, knowing they spent every year of their academic lives so far at TASIS? “Of course I am very pleased with what they have achieved as students and, we hope, as good, growing human beings, and I’m sad to see them leave the fold,” she says. “I believe they are well-prepared.”



*A group of students all dressed up for Carnevale*

# DECADES OF DEDICATION



*The Tragas Family: Dean, Eleni, Katerina, and Chris*

**“And you, my dear, what grade are you in?”**

Those were Mrs. Fleming’s first words to 25-year-old Chris Tragas when he arrived at TASIS Hellenic International School in 1979 to teach Spanish and French. Fresh out of McGill University with degrees in Spanish and French and a diploma in Education,

Chris answered sheepishly, “Mrs. Fleming, I am a new teacher at the school!”

So began Chris’s commitment to Mrs. Fleming and her schools and programs around the world, which continues to this day. Over the years, his involvement with TASIS Hellenic (TH) expanded to include stints

as Head of the Foreign Language Department, Academic Dean, Academic Director, High School Principal, and even becoming Head of School during a time of administrative changes at the School. Chris remained when TASIS withdrew and the International School of Athens took over. He continued to inspire young people until his retirement in December 2016.

Chris's summers have been equally busy. During the summers, from 1983 to 1993 he taught and then served as Academic Director of TASIS Lugano Summer Program and then he became Director of the TASIS Spanish Summer Program in Salamanca, a role he reprised for 20 summers. After this program closed, Chris remained in the TASIS Family, taking on the role of Director at the TASIS England Summer School in 2013.

His linguistic background in English, French, Spanish, Greek, and some German and Italian has been a huge asset to the international nature of the TASIS programs.

For Chris, TASIS summers have been a family affair. His architect wife Eleni taught art, photography, architecture & design, and sketching courses and even renovated the ground floor of TH! His daughter Katerina TH'02 is a young architect who serves as Academic Director of the TASIS England Summer Program and co-teaches the Drawing and 3-D Design class. Son Dean TH'08 is a teacher's assistant.

So what has drawn Chris to spend decades of his life working with the TASIS Schools? "My love for TASIS and my commitment to Mrs. Fleming," he says. "All of us who have been with TASIS for so many years always remember Mrs. Fleming with admiration and great respect. She is the reason for this invaluable commitment and respect that everyone, like me, feels about TASIS."

Chris is in the particular position of knowing how numerous TASIS institutions work. "The greatest thing is the TASIS philosophy, which is consistent with every TASIS school and summer program," he says. "The dedication and commitment of all stakeholders of all TASIS Schools and their willingness to abide by the TASIS mission and goals are the characteristics that bring everyone together in serving TASIS with pride and joy."

Teaching remains Chris's first love and despite all his administrative responsibilities he will never give it up. He has taught elementary, middle, and high school, and has been heavily involved in an accreditation team for international schools in India, Morocco, Oman, Italy, and Spain.

In December 2016 Chris reached the official retirement age in Greece, but instead of relaxing and taking some well-earned time for himself, he immediately took on a new challenge, and in January 2017 he joined TASIS England to work in their Academic Year where he is currently serving as Deputy Head of School / Head of Upper School Academic Studies. "It felt like coming back home after so many years of serving this wonderful academic institution," he says of his appointment. "I was honored to have been asked to serve the School in an administrative role."

The legacy of countless graduates inspires Chris as he continues his TASIS career. "Mrs. Fleming was an amazing, brilliant human being and educator. [Her philosophy] is carried over to the plethora of students from so many parts of the world who have been educated through TASIS and have become great ambassadors, appreciating, respecting, and tolerating cultural differences, knowing that each and every one of them is unique and special."

# STARS ARE BORN

*How the TASIS Summer Programs Built  
an Incomparable Performing Arts Program*



*The 2017 Dedicated Performing Arts Team*

For seven weeks each summer, a community of professional artists gathers amongst the mountains and lakes of southern Switzerland and devotes itself to providing a transformative experience to students hailing from more than 50 nations.

“It’s a beautiful thing,” said writer, actor, musician, and educator Andrew Leonard, who has spent his summers in Lugano since 2013. “The program and setting draw a special type of artist and create a special type of experience for those artists.”

An indispensable component of the TASIS Summer Programs and known simply as DPAT, this Dedicated Performing Arts Team of actors, musicians, dancers, and writers runs comprehensive musical theater courses for middle school and high school students and performing arts workshops for younger students; prepares students of all ages for a variety of musical theater, drama, dance, and music performances; showcases its own considerable talents with a staff talent show while encouraging students to do the same; and offers a musical revue, classical music evening, and other cultural events that often bring leading professionals from the region to campus.

### The genesis of DPAT

The arts have played a central role at TASIS since its founding in 1956 by M. Crist Fleming, who believed “a love of literature, the arts, and the performing arts is the heart and soul of education.” Chairman of the Board Lynn Fleming Aeschliman ’63 has followed in her mother’s footsteps as TASIS’s greatest champion of the arts, and while the performing arts have long been an integral part of the School’s summer offerings, it was the creation of DPAT in 2013 that pushed the program to new heights.

The TASIS Summer Programs consist of three divisions—**CDE** *Château des Enfants* (ages 4½–10), **MSP** *Middle School Program* (ages 11–13), and **TSP** *TASIS Summer Programs* (ages 14–18)—and prior to 2013, each division had an independent performing arts program. Following the summer of 2012, Todd Fletcher—who had been involved with the arts at TASIS since 1988 and wrote an original musical about M. Crist Fleming in 2000—proposed a set of centralized standards and the creation of one team to work across all three divisions. Todd drew upon his extensive experience with the performing arts at TASIS to pen an impressive treatise, and DPAT was born.

“Todd was suddenly freed up to hire true professionals who could focus on what they are passionate about—the arts—without all the other responsibilities that come with being a summer counselor,” said Matthew Frazier-Smith, who was hired as a theater and dance teacher in 2013, promoted to Assistant Director of DPAT for the first session of 2014, took over for Todd as director for the second session that summer, and led the thriving program through summer 2017.

### The double meaning of “dedicated”

Matthew retained many holdovers from Todd’s time while adding several new hires of the own. The team



now consists of 17 professionals from all over the world with areas of expertise ranging from acting and singing to choreographing and playwriting. They typically spend 75 percent of their time teaching and 25 percent performing for students.

“We get to create new material, work on new musicals, and inspire children from around the world,” said Andrew. “And we also get to perform at the same exact time. I don’t think there’s a single other program out there like it.”

“The opportunity we have is unparalleled in the world of arts education,” added Mikey Rosenbaum, a DPAT teacher since 2014 who will take over the program in summer 2018. “The team, along with the willingness and courage of the students to create and learn and grow together, is why I continue to return to this magical place.”

The artists’ enthusiasm and love for their craft is palpable the moment they set foot on campus each June, and they all understand what it will take to prepare students for a series of original musical theater productions and a variety of other performances in just three weeks—

only to do it all over again with an entirely new group of students when the second session begins.

TJ Liquori, who earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the world-renowned Berklee College of Music and teaches in Massachusetts during the academic year, joined the team in 2015 and concedes that he did not initially understand that the “Dedicated” part of the group’s title was added to address the need for a team of teaching artists dedicated specifically to the performing arts.

“To be honest, when I first joined the Dedicated Performing Arts Team, I thought that ‘Dedicated’ was added to the title to mean ‘devoted to a task or purpose.’ This was my first impression of the team; there is truly no job left unfinished. If you need someone to help you manage backstage at your performance, five people will volunteer in their free time. If you need to highlight scripts for your students, you’ll have multiple other team members in the office within five minutes.

This ‘dedication’ to the team and its students as a whole makes DPAT as great as it is.”

### **The aims of the program**

As Todd lays out beautifully in his treatise, a successful performing arts program is one that provides both fun and meaning, accounts for the importance of both process and event, creates opportunities for joy (defined as the summation of fun, meaning, struggle, and success), empowers students to be collaborators, recognizes the primacy of language, and imparts life lessons.

Now that Matthew has guided DPAT for six full summer sessions, he can pass the reigns to Mikey knowing that the staff and students will work incredibly hard, accomplish more than they thought would be possible, and have plenty of fun along the way. The DPAT team also goes to great lengths to create an environment in which each student will contribute actively and find his or her own meaning in the process.



“Many of our students are performing for the first time,” Matthew said. “It is an enormous pleasure to witness the unveiling of hidden talents, the realization of uncharted potential, and the joy that accompanies such moments of discovery. At the end of each session, it’s such a pleasure to celebrate the courage exhibited by these young artists to traverse unfamiliar territory and boldly share their discoveries with an audience.”

Matthew also feels strongly that one of DPAT’s most important jobs is to model ideas and values for students. This may take the form of exhibiting a strong work ethic, a positive attitude, and a creative spirit, but it also includes ensuring that all the original musical theater productions—the heart of the program—convey messages that help combat pressing issues faced by today’s youth.

While it is important that student performers have fun, it is imperative that they find meaning. And meaning, as Todd states in the treatise, “is to be found in stories, words, and music that our students can live with for the rest of their lives, material that contributes to their intellectual and spiritual development, pieces whose themes, messages, and morals can be referred to as the children grow into men and women.”

### **A place for everyone**

Matthew is adamant that all students—regardless of experience level—can thrive in the performing arts program at TASIS, and he encourages anyone with an interest in acting, writing, singing, dancing, or playing an instrument to apply for a spot in the summer.

“We are excited to work with every student,” he said. “We want kids who are enthusiastic about any of the areas. Passion is far more important than experience.”

One of the biggest benefits of working exclusively with original scripts and student-created material is that the musical productions and the Musical Theater courses



can be molded to best suit the strengths of each student performer.

“Our teachers have the flexibility to make whatever adjustments they feel are necessary,” said Matthew. “Their goal is to push the most advanced students to new heights and to help even the most inexperienced students get up to speed before they’re called upon to perform.”

The inspiring results are what keep the core team returning year after year. “It’s remarkable what these students are consistently able to achieve if given the opportunity and proper resources,” added Mikey. “The growth these students demonstrate in such a short amount of time is nothing short of incredible, and those who continue to return each summer improve tremendously in not only their performance abilities but in their social, interpersonal, and leadership skills as well.”



# THE ECHOES OF TISIS ARE ALWAYS THERE

*Will Vassilopoulos on his work as a renowned videojournalist*



**Will Vassilopoulos TH'93's** eyes fill with joy as he discusses his career as a videojournalist. While he's only been in the field for six years, he has already achieved one of the biggest accolades, the Rory Peck Award for News, which honors freelancers who create news features that "look beyond the immediacy of the news". His work "Fear and Desperation: Refugees and Migrants Pour into Greece" features arresting footage from the Greek island of Lesbos and from Idomeni, a makeshift camp on Greece's northern border. (Google "Rory Peck Will" and you'll find a link to his remarkable film.)

Will has always been a keen videographer, though for many years he limited his work to films of family, friends, and FinalCut on his computer. Born in Canada and raised in Athens, Will had just completed his Masters in Exercise Physiology and was considering a life in academia when

he saw a job advertisement which he somewhat misinterpreted. This was in 2003, just before the Athens Olympics, and Japanese news agency Kyodo News was looking for a sports researcher who could also write. "I'd published scientific papers in journals, but that's it," he says. "During the interview we both realized I wasn't what they wanted, but they learned that I was an expert on doping in sports, which was something they were interested in exploring." He passed an English test and a three-month trial period and soon was covering not just the run-up to the Olympics but also Greece's general elections and their EU presidency. "I've always been a news buff," he says, "but in the back of my mind I was eventually going to be an exercise physiologist for an F1 driver."



After the Athens Olympics, Kyodo moved their European news bureau to Rome and Will was soon working for another Japanese media firm, The Yomiuri Shimbun, this time focusing on doping as part of the Turin Olympics. He realized that he really enjoyed journalism at the exact time that many freelancers were out of work post-Olympics. Then in 2007, Greece's state broadcaster ERT began a syndicated Anglo newscast. At this point, Will was working as an academic teaching exercise physiology at a university, which he enjoyed, but he missed the pace of news. Within two years he was an anchor. "We gave Greek communities around the world news about Greece in English, and it was quite popular," he recalls. But in 2010, Greece's financial crisis had begun and ERT decided not to renew contract workers, leaving many people without jobs. Will thought it might be a good time to look for work abroad.

Then in 2011, a friend said that Agence France-Press (AFP) was looking for someone to help out on weekends. "It was one weekend shift a month, and I loved it, but my stress levels were through the roof," he remembers. "We were deep into the economic crisis and all of the unpopular decisions of that period were made on the weekends so the people wouldn't protest in the streets. We were in competition with Reuters and AP and they had three or four people working weekends. Rotating in and out was difficult because you still had to follow everything."

Then the bureau chief asked if Will wanted to do a video training program in Paris. "I jumped in with both feet," Will says. "As an anchor I knew what made a good image. I

used to go through Reuters and AP footage every day to see what worked. I just didn't know how to do it. I used to edit my home videos, but this, of course, was another level." The two-week course in May 2011 left him with a decision: stay with print journalism or shift to video. "And video was really exciting, amazing."

Slowly Will began to make a name for himself, working both in Greece and abroad. "I was getting offers, but I knew that AFP was the place for me." AFP had just started their video department and Will knew this was an opportunity to help build something as well as challenge his own work.

Videojournalists are, as Will calls them, "Swiss Army knives. You do everything. You're a journalist, a producer, an editor, a cameraman. While you're in the process of filming you're already seeing how it will all fit together." After shooting the footage, the videographer packages the raw material – usually 2-3 minutes of video, with soundbites, that tell a complete story, and a script – then the agency sells it to networks around the world. The networks then take this and edit it further for their needs.

"This news agency format is strict and straightforward," Will says, "but you have to have an artistic thought, too. Even if it's hard news, there's always a better angle, you can always keep the shot longer, edit differently. You can always make it more exciting."

It's a balancing act of sound, light, angles, emotion – and, as Will says, "you know if you're missing an element. You have to go search for it. You have to grind the person you're interviewing down. You want a 15-second answer, not a minute-and-a-half answer. But you're also thinking about the emotions you want the viewer to have. You must be truthful to the situation and you do your best to portray it properly. It's never perfect but the feeling...you can capture that feeling."

Will has spent time in conflict zones, including work in Ukraine and Crimea, and in Egypt and Turkey during the riots. "Conflict zone work is scary," he admits. "Especially when you have children, and if you're doing it for financial reasons." For videojournalists, these aren't weekend jaunts; they are sent away to a hostile environment for many days at a time. "When you're away, it always seems much worse to the people at home than it really is. My wife and I don't speak about it."

Is he ever scared? "You have to find ways of overcoming your fear, but not too much as you have to respect the

situations you are in. You're told to move your bed away from the windows in your hotel. Shrapnel and bullets might land close to you. I once interviewed a rebel commander and we were the target."

But there's a strange attraction to this work. "The adrenaline rush is incredible," Will says. "I can see why it is addictive to become a war correspondent, how everything else is boring in comparison. When you put on your flak jacket, the heaviness, the weight – you're not thinking it will look cool in the Facebook photos. You're thinking, this might save my life."

Will is happy dipping into this sort of work rather than making a commitment to it. "For me, it's not the front line which is the interesting part. That's just big boys with toys fighting each other. It's the side stories, the people going through this, what it means to them. And it is most difficult when there's no closure to your story."

He often doesn't include the images which are most arresting for him in the footage for AFP. Piles of bodies, failed CPR, the body of an unidentified child – these are the things that Will finds most difficult to film. "You're trying to find a respectful angle, and you don't want to show the faces as you don't want parents to see their kids this way, and it's an awful story that you have to do," he says, visibly emotional. "You choose what you want to share. It comes down to respect and dignity. I don't want to shock the viewer; I want you to understand. I want to humanize the story." It's also about building a rapport. "It's never just walking around with my camera. I have to speak to people, to help make them understand what I am trying to do. And if they say no, no means no."

Will's fascination with people is reflected in his work covering the refugee crisis in Greece as well. His work shows respect for the people and their situation. The rescue operation which made up the bulk of his Rory Peck Award film was what he calls "an absolute success – I had really strong images, and at the end, everyone was accounted for.

"This is where TESIS comes in," Will says of his 12 years spent at TESIS Hellenic. "This idea that we're the same, there's no difference between races or genders, we're all human. This is completely the work of TESIS." He feels his empathy for others was cultivated by sharing the halls and classrooms with students from the Middle East, other parts of Europe, South America, Southeast Asia – even Canada, like Will. "It was so multicultural. I especially loved International Day, with stands from

countries around the world. We took so much for granted, that your best friend was from Lebanon or Japan and that you had Arab and Jewish friends going out together. We were all the same.”

There’s also the issue of putting down the camera to help, especially for a person who sees the world with such empathy. “If I’m the person between life or death, there’s no moral or ethical question, I’m going to help,” he says. “Towards the end of the refugee crisis it was a circus – there were more NGO and media people than refugees. At the beginning, though, a dinghy would land and it would just be you. If it was a calm sea, it’s ok, you can film. But if it’s a rough landing, you have to decide.

“A story dealing with a social crisis such as the migration crisis is a different ball game than a conflict zone,” he continues. “You’re sticking a camera in their face, and it’s embarrassing but it’s the job. And it’s an important job, because the world needs to see this.”

Will was one of four journalists included in “The Emotional Toll On Journalists Covering The Refugee Crisis”, a July 2017 study by Anthony Feinstein and Hannah Storm for the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford. It makes for fascinating reading that transforms the way news stories are viewed, but Will’s story is particularly poignant. He must come to terms with the atrocities he sees as a Greek man covering the migration crisis on Greek shores. “I am devastated,” he writes. “This is a beach on an island in a country that’s not at war. This should not be happening. It’s sinister. It’s evil.”

So how does Will compartmentalize things? “There’s a work Will and a home Will. It’s difficult the day you come home. You automatically become Daddy and husband,” he says. “My wife is a hero. While I’m away she takes

care of our two kids. I wouldn’t expect her to tell me to go out and have a beer with my friends, take a few days to decompress, and I don’t want to do that.”

He also finds it difficult to connect with friends. “Those in the field can tell from your eyes that it was a bad assignment. But your other friends don’t get it, and you don’t necessarily want to tell them.”

The downside to the Rory Peck award is having to revisit the images from his film over and over. “It gets harder. The more you distance with time, the more I realize that it was not a dream. While it’s still happening you are numb from everything. Now when I see these images I can’t believe it was me behind the camera.” He still isn’t entirely comfortable with his footage winning the award, however. “There is a percentage of me that still feels that this was won on the back of human suffering,” he said in the Feinstein/Storm study, “but whenever I get that feeling it is something I am uncomfortable with, but the positive aspects outweigh that.”

He sees much growth from his early work, which he calls ‘horrific’. “My eyes are sharper, everything is more fine-tuned, I work with less stress, and I am more aware of what I want.” This means Will can take on bigger challenges, and the AFP continues to give Will new opportunities to shine. “And in all my work, the echoes of TESIS are always there.”

So far this year, Will has been to Romania, Switzerland (for the Cyprus talks), Lebanon, and covered the Trump visit to Europe. In all, he will spend nearly two months of 2017 on the road, hoping to bring the truth to our screens. “A picture is definitely worth a thousand words,” he says, “but video can be much more powerful.”



# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS 2016-17

## DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

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A big thank you to the alumni, parents, faculty & staff, and friends of TASIS who have contributed to the School this year, supporting either the 60th Anniversary Campaign, the Annual Appeal, the Endowment, or another fund. Many thanks to the classes of 2006, PG '66, and 1966 & Friends, who all organized special anniversary-related fundraising this year. Your support means a lot to us!

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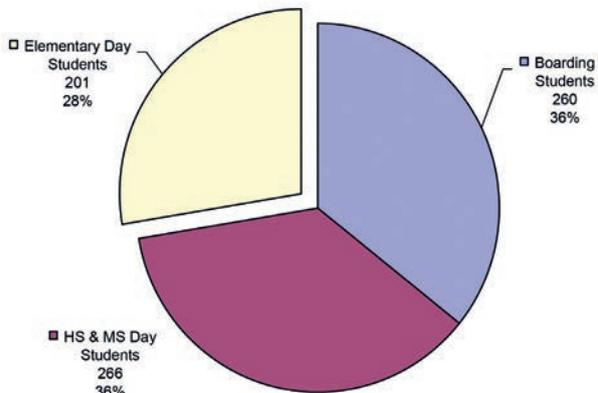
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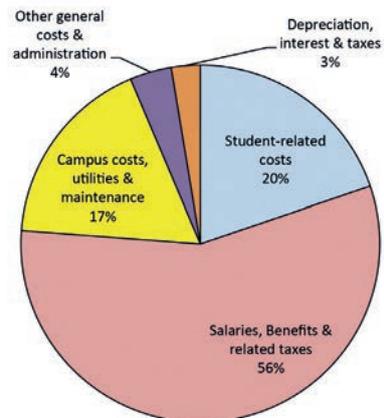
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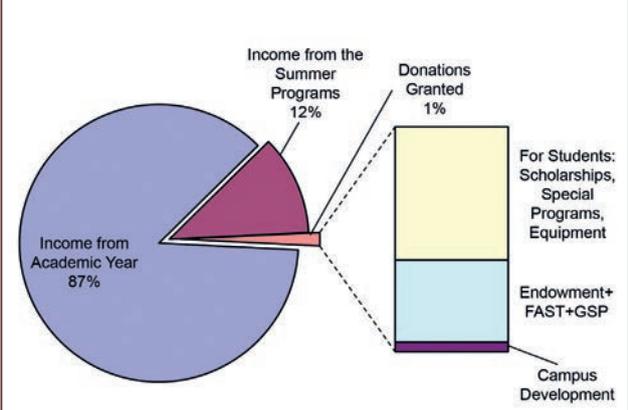
**TISIS Students 2015-2016, total number 727**



**TISIS Operating costs - June 30, 2016**



**TISIS Operating Income and Fundraising 2015-2016**



# ALUMNI REUNIONS

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 18, 2016



**1)** Boris Bakovic '85, Bill Eichner - **2)** Jen Greene '74, Curtis Webster '75, Kathy Gamble '74, Denise Rainero '74, Daisy Bilbao '76, Ann Liederman '78 - **3)** Summer staff Andrew Leonard, Elena Clarke, & Taylor Sayward '09 - **4)** PG '66 classmates Charlie Pannaci, Rob Hawley, Rob Perkin, Elisabeth Acer Crawford, Katharine Culbertson Prentice - **5)** Chris Draz '70, Michael Aeschliman - **6)** Sierra Quitiquit '07, Skyler Gross '05 - **7)** PG84 classmates Mary Karst, Karen Piper, Steve Mauro, Jacqueline Kemper Hill - **8)** Bill Mihos TH87, Kate Apgar Martin TH93, Nico Maounis TH92, Natalia Megas TH92 - **9)** Curtis Webster '75, Savannah Renaudi '13, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 - **10)** Marina & Nick Letsios TH87, Rob Perez TH85, Karen Seagrave Alleva TH86, Katerina Bravos MacGregor TH86, David MacGregor, Yvonne Procyk, Kirk Karabelas TH87, Janice Colon-Mahoney TH81, Dimitri Zarboulas TH81, Monica Tajkowski - **11)** Evan Elbersen '07, Oriana Neidecker '08, Nola Seta '07, Michael Fountain '07 - **12)** Waka Takahashi '09, Ulkar Guliyeva '09, Matt Popesco '11

Visit the alumni section of [www.tasis.ch](http://www.tasis.ch) to see more photos!

# ALUMNI REUNIONS

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN MIAMI, APRIL 8, 2016



**1)** Veronika Mühlhofer '97, Tobias Mühlhofer '98, Vanessa + John Procter '98, Andres Baez PG98 - **2)** Bill Eichner (second from left) with former faculty Gil Shasha, Livia Theodoli Wing '75, Hendrik Woods - **3)** Heidi Hoverkamp Gleixner '88, Kathi Myers, Jacqueline Del Val '85, Diane DeWees Rollins (former faculty), Sarah Rollins - **4)** Adrian Czahar '80, Cristina Regalado, Wyatt Williams '82, Sandra Williams - **5)** Jen Greene '74, Erwin Bilbao '77, Livia Theodoli Wing '75, Dan Higgins '74, Amy Eilers '77, Roubik Aftandilians '74 - **6)** Group shot - **7)** Roubik Aftandilians '74, Anne Guthrie '74, Denise Rainero '74, Daisy Bilbao '76, Kathy Gamble '74, Jen Greene '74, Yvette Vartanian Baroian '73 - **8)** Melissa Eichner, Toni Soule (TASIS US Representative), Diane DeWees Rollins (former faculty) - **9)** Onur Simsek, Andrea Cabrera '06, Maggie Prillaman '06, Steve Constantine - **10)** Jennie Antonelli TSLP01, Soraya Daid, Nick Sboukis TH89, Cindy Sboukis Redmond TH86, Lukas Zapsas, Yvonne Procyk - **11)** MCF cookies - the inaugural appearance!

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# ALUMNI REUNIONS

## TASIS HELLENIC ALL-CLASS REUNION IN ATHENS, JULY 29, 2017



A beautiful white building bursting with memories, a transformed school sports court, and mild summer night created a spectacular venue for the first TASIS Hellenic All-Class Reunion on July 29. Over 150 people joined in to celebrate their time at the school and reconnect with classmates, some even traveling from as far as the US, China, and Britain for the event.

The night before, a dozen members from the Class of '87, along with faculty members Gary Jervis, Kath Cairncross and Noelle Boucherat, got together at a restaurant in Glyfada for a night of memories, laughs, and delicious food. The night was a perfect hearty appetizer before the main event the following night.

A huge Thank You to ISA Director Spiros Molfetas for allowing us to use the location that is so meaningful to our TH alumni, and to Rena Deriziotis, Fanis Malakondas, and especially to Eleni Haniotakis, for their support and advice throughout the planning of this event. And a special mention to Steve Psallidas TH87 whose original plan for the class reunion provided the impetus for the all-class event. Ευχαριστώ!



Visit the alumni section of [www.tasis.ch](http://www.tasis.ch) to see more photos!



**CLASS OF 2006 SKI REUNION  
GSTAAD, JANUARY 2-8, 2017**

Half a dozen members of the class got together in Gstaad in January to start the year off in style with a house party, some skiing (when the snow conditions allowed), and a fun group dinner on January 5. Nicholas Colombo, Sabrina Misrahi, Luca Betz, Moody Binzagr '07, and Pedro Camacho Gomez '05 made it to dinner, while Fabian Zolk arrived a bit later, for drinks at the Palace, after driving down from Germany in the snow.

**VISITING LUGANO?**

We are always delighted to welcome alumni to campus, but please be aware that recent security upgrades mean that all visitors must check in at the front gate and show ID. It's very quick if your name is on that day's list. If you're planning to visit campus, please let us know via email ([alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch)) or phone (+41 91 960 5181/+41 91 986 5423), and we'll make sure you are looked after.

*The TASIC alumni team Zuleika and Yvonne and TASIC Today writer and editor Kristin*

**1)** Rena Deriziotis, Mary Spyratos - **2)** Class of '87 group - **3)** Line dancing! - **4)** Eleni Haniotakis TH94, Yvonne Procyk (TASIC team), George Serentini TH84 - **5)** Having fun! - **6)** Anna Xydeas with Bill Eichner (TASIC team) - **7)** Nick Letsios TH87, Michelle Arslanian (TASIC team), Marina Letsios - **8)** Madeline Velis TH86, Tina Grammas TH86, Ioanna Markou TH88 - **9)** Photo call during the campus tour. - **10)** Yvonne Procyk swept off her feet by Steve Christos TH84 - **11)** Remember those stairs? **12)** Yvonne Procyk, Dimitris Papandreu TH94 - **13)** Faculty members Pitsa Roupa & Mary Rogers TH83 - **14)** Everyone was in high spirits!

## CLASSES OF '82 & '83 GOLD RUSH REUNION IN SHEEP RANCH, SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2016

Robert Cutter '83 graciously offered his family's ranch (1.5 hours outside Sacramento) to host a reunion September 22-25, 2016. Sheep Ranch, with its hotel built in the mid 1800s, was a haunt of miners during the Gold Rush, but the area is well past its glory days so that the TASIC reunion virtually doubled the current population of 32! The weekend was great fun, with plenty of time spent hanging out together, plus activities including a wine tasting trip. As Jon Grant '83 wrote, "We did more than drink and eat though. The hike through Calaveras Big Trees State Park....Epic!" A smaller group reconvened in June 2017 for Part Two!



## CLASS OF 1966 REUNION NEW ORLEANS, OCTOBER 14-16, 2016



In mid-October a fun-filled weekend was held in New Orleans honoring the Class of 1966 but also including alumni from other mid-60s classes. The festivities kicked off with a dinner on Thursday at Antoine's – a true NOLA tradition, crowned by a special "Class of 1966" Baked Alaska. By Friday everyone had arrived, and Bill and Susan Hess hosted a sumptuous cocktail party and buffet at their home that evening. A variety of fun excursions were made in small groups during the day on Saturday before enjoying a group dinner at the Royal Sonesta on Bourbon Street

that evening. The weekend came to a close, too soon, with brunch on Sunday morning. During the Saturday evening, we took some time to remember members of '66 who are no longer with us, and also read a letter from Robert Wilson, who was unable to join in but sent a special congratulatory message from his home in California. Let's not wait another 50 years for the next get-together!

*Chuck Kitsman '67*

## CLASS OF 2007 LUGANO, JUNE 9-11, 2017



TASIS welcomed the Class of 2007 back to Lugano in June to celebrate its 10-year anniversary. Class agent Denise Chiang did a wonderful job coordinating the reunion and making all the arrangements, even providing guests a custom tote bag with a special TASIS crest featuring chicken and potatoes, a plane, prosecco, and a breathalyzer! Thirty-two alumni came back to join in the fun. Many came from the US, and two even bumped into each other at the DFW airport on their way! Others came from Mexico or gravitated in from

different parts of Europe. After settling into the dorm, the first official get-together was dinner Friday evening at the Principe Leopoldo. Saturday's lineup of events included a boat ride around the lake with an on-board aperitivo, and the evening on campus with dinner in Casa Fleming which offered more opportunities to reminisce. Sunday brunch sparked more stories and exchanges. The reunion finished far too soon for many, and some have already said they'd like to have a reunion every year!

## CLASS OF 1987 REUNION LUGANO, JUNE 16-18, 2017



The arrival of the Class of 1987 on June 16 livened up one of the quietest days of the year on the TASIS campus. The reminiscing and catching-up started immediately, and continued unabated through a pre-dinner happy hour in the Lanterna common room and an elegant group dinner at the Principe Leopoldo. On Saturday the group enjoyed a boat ride on the lake with a lunch stop in Morcote. That evening the garden of Casa Fleming was the venue for aperitifs and dinner, and everyone was delighted to see Steve Loesche, who drove down from Lucerne just to join in. Chantal Eley Gordon, in residence for the TASIS Summer

Programs, and other current faculty attended the send-off brunch the next morning.

A heartfelt thanks is owed to Alex de Bruin, who did a fantastic job organizing the reunion! Reflections sent by Chris Muncy afterward effectively summed up the feeling of those who attended: "For many of us this was the first time to be back to a beloved home away from home. The campus is absolutely stunning. It was great to see all the new buildings and the amazing transformations that have taken place to allow Mrs. Fleming's vision and mission to touch the lives of so many young people."

## CLASS OF 1992 & FRIENDS LUGANO, JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2017



The Class of 1992 returned to TASIS for its 25th anniversary reunion at the end of June, joining forces with many friends from the Classes of 1991–1996. The weekend started with a lively dinner in Lugano on Friday evening with 40 people in attendance, including TASIS Director of Institutional Advancement Bill Eichner. 56 people gathered on Saturday for a long and leisurely tour of their old dorm rooms and the campus's newest buildings before transitioning on to aperitifs and dinner in the Casa Fleming garden.



As with each reunion in June this year, the weather played its part and everyone was able to fully enjoy the splendor of a TASIS dinner “al fresco.” Ed Keller '93 is already talking about getting the ball rolling for his class's own reunion next year, which will likely continue with the multi-class model that worked so well with this group. A big thank you is due to Miki Schroder Nava '92, who did such a tremendous job organizing every detail for this reunion. Brava, Miki!

## CLASS OF 1997 REUNION LUGANO, JULY 14-16, 2017



The class of 1997 gathered in Lugano for its 20-year reunion in July. The ten classmates who came from near and far (mostly far) were: Marta Costa, Ramin Rabii, Veronika Muhlhofer, Peter Mark Verwoerd, Kevin McMenamin, Abdurrahman Cakar, Patrick Matta, Michele Josue, Christina Olson, and Ava Klein. Many fun memories were rekindled, especially when browsing slowly, page by page, through the yearbook. The weekend was spent sharing activities such as dinner at Pizzeria Mary's, riding the funicular up San Salvatore, enjoying lunch across



the lake in Caprino, having a barbecue at Veronika's, and visiting other memorable spots in the area. Of course there was also the traditional campus tour and evening at Casa Fleming, which finished off in perfect style with Bill Eichner mixing a round of Old Fashioneds, Mrs. Fleming's signature cocktail.

“We had a great weekend together, but it was all over so soon!” said Kevin McMenamin. “It prompted us to start talking about a 25th-anniversary reunion, most likely back in the USA.”

## CLASS OF 1977 – 40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION LOS ANGELES, AUGUST 25-27, 2017



A dozen alumni met in LA for a wonderful weekend, starting off with a Friday night cocktail party at the iconic Santa Monica hotel Shutters on the Beach alongside other 1970s alumni. Cari Wolk hosted Saturday night's dinner at her elegant beachside home in Malibu, which was followed by a screening of *Pushing All the Buttons*. Mrs. Fleming's voice rang out, and her presence was palpable. Special cookies had been made for the reunion with pictures of Mrs. Fleming, and one

also included Cari along with MCF and her memorable black mini! Many thanks are owed to Cari for her generous spirit, love of TASIS and MCF, and energy in planning and organizing this reunion over the past months. At the send-off brunch on Sunday, Greg Goldstein voiced his opinion that the 40th anniversary is even more meaningful than the 50th. Not everyone was in agreement, though, and we'll have to wait to find out in ten years. Summer 2027: Save the Date!

## REUNION CALENDAR

### All-Class Reunion in Washington, DC

November 17, 2017

The Smithsonian Castle

1000 Jefferson Dr SW, Washington, DC 20560

6:30 – 9:30 pm

### All-Class Reunion in Los Angeles

March 24, 2018

Save the Date!

## CLASS REUNIONS

### PG '67 – 50th anniversary reunion in Moab, UT

September 30, 2017

Contact Darcey Brown Kelley or Jay Noyes to find out more

([darcey@frontiernet.net](mailto:darcey@frontiernet.net) or [rockythefs@gmail.com](mailto:rockythefs@gmail.com))

### PG '67 – 50th anniversary reunion in Washington, DC

November 17-19, 2017 in conjunction with the TASIS All-Class Reunion

Contact Geoff Parker at [gspkr@mac.com](mailto:gspkr@mac.com) to find out more, or email Yvonne in the alumni office ([yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch](mailto:yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch))

### Class of 1968 – 50th anniversary reunion

Plans are being made for spring 2018

Classmates from 1967 and 1969 are invited as well. Look out for announcements, and contact Pam Springer Bryant at [ohsaycanuc@cox.net](mailto:ohsaycanuc@cox.net) to find out more!

### Class of 2008 – 10th anniversary reunion

Lugano, June 1-3, 2018

Contact Chingiz Aliyev ([caliyev90@gmail.com](mailto:caliyev90@gmail.com)) or Oriana Zogbi Harb ([orianazh@gmail.com](mailto:orianazh@gmail.com)) to find out more.

### Class of 1998 – 20th anniversary reunion

Lugano, June 8-10, 2018

Contact John Procter ([johnoprocter@gmail.com](mailto:johnoprocter@gmail.com)) or Travis Belgard ([travisabelgard@gmail.com](mailto:travisabelgard@gmail.com)) for info.

### Class of 1969 – 50th anniversary reunion

Plans are being considered for this big anniversary in 2019. Stay tuned, and contact Peter Boynton [peter51boynton@gmail.com](mailto:peter51boynton@gmail.com) or Yvette Brault Rogers [yvettegroggers@gmail.com](mailto:yvettegroggers@gmail.com) to share your thoughts and find out more.

Are you planning a reunion that isn't on this list?

Please email us at [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to let us know!

# ALUMNI *News* FEATURES

## RAISING *Lazarus*

In 1925, renowned playwright Eugene O’Neil wrote a play entitled *Lazarus Laughed: A Play for Imaginative Theatre*. The play’s obscurity is perhaps due to scarce productions. Its world premiere, and the only known major production of the play, was in 1928 at the Pasadena Community Playhouse in California, which used 151 actors playing 420 roles. The other production was staged in 1971 by Mrs. Fleming.

The play takes place following the raising of Lazarus of Bethany from the dead by Jesus. Lazarus is the first man to return from the afterworld, and he insists to the chorus that there is no death, only God’s laughter. The more Lazarus laughs, the younger and stronger he becomes, and conversely the older and weaker his wife Miriam becomes. Lazarus is presented

a series of tests by the Jews, Romans, and Greeks to try his faith, and loses close friends and family members throughout, yet he continues laughing – even when Miriam is poisoned by Roman Emperor Tiberius and when, at the end, he is burned at the stake.

It’s an interesting premise for a play, and one that resonated with Mrs. Fleming. The play’s European premiere was staged in 1971 by the American Repertory Theater in Europe (ARTE), a TASIS summer program that took place from 1970-1973. A cast of 40 student actors performed 150 roles, taking the production to venues such as the Teatro Grande in the ruins of Pompeii, Teatro Romano in Verona, Teatro Romano in Fiesole, and Teatro Antico in Taormina, Sicily. The Italians loved it; indeed venues were packed and major Italian newspapers gave the productions rave reviews.

The title role was played by Paul Abbott, who was working at the time with the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. The experience of performing on Europe’s storied stages affects Paul to this day. “I had something like a religious epiphany,” he recalls of a performance at the Greco-Roman Theater in Taormina. “The night was clear and there was a full moon. Stretched before me, beyond the partly ruined arena, were the Mediterranean and Mt. Etna – it was so stunningly beautiful,” he says. “In a reverie I suddenly realized that I was standing in the very spot that Sophocles, Euripides, or someone who personally knew one or both of them, might well have stood some 2500 years before. And not just standing, actually acting in a literate drama that connected me to an artistic continuum of even greater antiquity. What a marvel! I felt so exhilarated and privileged to be in such a place.”



Paul Abbott as Lazarus



# FINDING LOVE AT TASIS

The breathtaking beauty of Lugano is perhaps the perfect setting for romance to blossom. Add the intensity of a boarding school setting with the mystery of others from foreign lands and it's no wonder so many relationships begin at TASIS.

In the past six decades, the School has witnessed countless crushes, first dates, emotional arguments, breakups, proposals, and even weddings! We caught up with a few couples whose TASIS romances have stood the test of time.

***Su-Yi Chao '00 and Chia-Wei Yang '00*** attended TASIS from 1997-2000. Chia-Wei is notorious for serenading Su-Yi from his dorm room in *De Nobili* to hers in *Scuderia*! They live in Taipei and have two children, an 8-year-old boy and 4-year-old girl. Chia-Wei owns a real estate company named for their son Yang Ting. They met 20 years ago en route to TASIS.

I was only 15 years old when I met Chia-Wei. I met him at the Taiwan airport when everyone took the same flight to Switzerland. Chia-Wei had this yellow hair and wore a bright orange t-shirt and black leather pants. I don't think it was love at first sight!



I was 15 the first time Chia-Wei held my hand and we walked from school to a lakeside café in Lugano. But this didn't last much longer than a week. Why? Maybe he wanted to save some money, so he broke up with me before Valentine's Day. Just kidding! We were confused. I guess we were too young to know how to love a person. We thought maybe our relationship would last longer if we stayed friends. So most of the time, we were just friends.

It was when we were friends that I noticed his good heart. For example, when I moved dorms from Scuderia to Casa Norma, Chia-Wei was the first one standing in front of my dorm to help. Also, during our second year at [Ski Term in] Crans-Montana, I gave my gloves to a new student, then my hands became very cold and sore. Chia-Wei saw this and gave his gloves to me to warm up my hands. Chia-Wei was my Secret Santa one year and gave me chocolate and a beautiful scarf. I was so surprised when I found out.

Our relationship started seriously during our trip to London when we were 17. We fell in love for about four months, but we were still too young to handle a relationship. Though I remember when his volleyball team traveled to the SGIS championship (which they won, and Chia-Wei won MVP!), he brought me back a stuffed toy. It is our little girl's toy now.

After we graduated, we both went to university in the US, and we got together again. I was in Boston and he was in New Hampshire. He drove the hour to Boston to see me every day until we decided to live together. Chia-Wei found a nice apartment for us, and I learned to cook – I couldn't even make rice! – and made dinner every night. Chia-Wei loved eating at home and used to invite friends to our place for dinner. He would always finish everything and praise the meal no matter how badly I cooked! I think that was the time we both knew

*Su-Yi Chao '00 and Chia-Wei Yang '00 met at TASIS and fell in love at university*

*Jeff Boyle '86 and Maggie Hammad Boyle '86 when they first fell in love*

– we were around 20 years old.

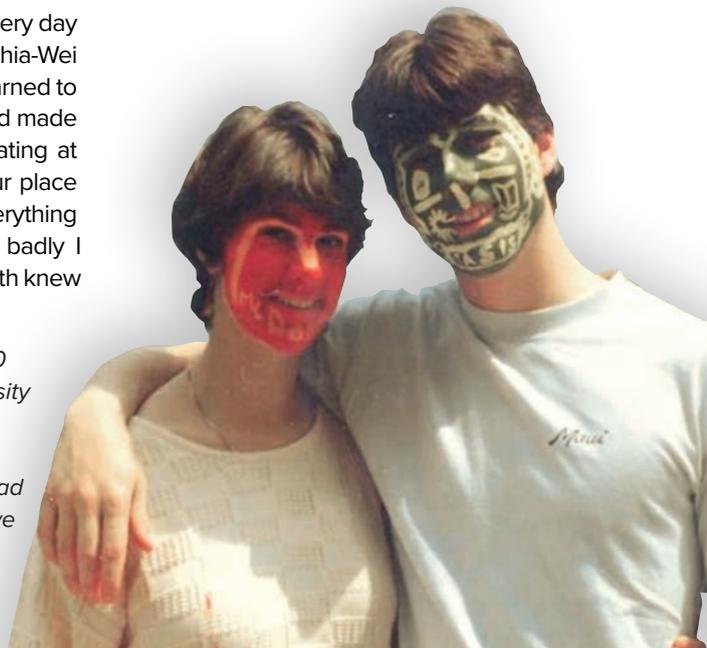
It wasn't love at first sight. But TASIS gave us the chance and courage, and a romantic atmosphere to start our relationship, both friendship and love. Because love is not easy, and to become a family means you must face problems together. The time of our friendship built up our love and we became stronger. Our love evolved in stages: friends, then our relationship, then our family.

We would like to thank TASIS for bringing us together. The lifestyle at TASIS made us and our friends so close, taking our relationships to a different level. This January we went back to visit TASIS. Mr. Eichner gave us a lovely campus tour. I hope when our kids go to TASIS in the future, they will have beautiful memories and will share their stories with us. When our little girl goes to TASIS, I hope she will find someone who admires her, but I will tell her that in order to love someone else, you have to love yourself first.

***Jeff Boyle '86 and Maggie Hammad Boyle '86*** met in 1984. Jeff attended TASIS for his sophomore through senior years and Maggie her junior and senior years. They got married in 1995 and live in Katy, Texas with their children Gabi (18) and Jacob (16).

*Do you believe in love at first sight? Or a slow burn?*

**Jeff:** I do believe in love at first sight. When I first saw Maggie junior year, I knew I had to



meet her. I was a junior prefect and she and her friend **Denise Mobley '86** were sitting on the picnic table outside of Lago. I quickly boiled some noodles and slapped on some butter, salt, and pepper. My roommate (**Rob "Lippy" Lazar '86**) and I took the noodles out and offered them as an ice-breaker. Maggie and I were destined to be together from that moment on.

**Maggie:** Yes I do, because when I first saw Jeff I thought he was the cutest thing ever and thought I should marry him someday!

*Tell us about your first date.*

**Jeff:** I don't really remember a first "date". Given the close quarters, we were always together. I remember a lot of walking and talking, whether it was on campus or downtown at the park. I remember cutting the yellow roses outside the Bubble and taking them to her.

**Maggie:** Jeff and I spent the first week together a lot and hung out during the trip to Valle Verzasca. We hiked up a bit to see some waterfalls and I thought he was going to kiss me then, but he didn't. When we got back to TASIS we had a dance in the rec center. He asked me to be his girlfriend as we swayed to "Purple Rain" and we had our first kiss!

*Describe when you knew he/she was The One.*



**Jeff:** See above.

**Maggie:** This is tough to answer because I thought it when I was 16 years old and couldn't possibly have known. But I would say it was definitely when we got back together again in the middle of college and then I moved to Houston, Texas.

*What is it about TASIS that leads to such close friendships and even love?*

**Jeff:** Those years are transformative for any teenager. Being removed from our parents and having to find new support groups at that age created strong bonds. Maggie and I have been married for 21 years and still share these close bonds with many of our classmates. We don't see them often, but every time we are together, it seems like we were in Lugano yesterday.

**Maggie:** I think it was the fact that we were all so young and without our families that made us become such close friends with the other students. My best friends at TASIS are still my best friends today. We lived in close quarters with each other and became close friends quickly. I feel like many other people feel that way about their college friends for that same reason. Anyway, it was a wonderful experience in such a beautiful place and I can't imagine where I would be today if I hadn't attended.

**Melody Tibbits Zanecchia and Milo Zanecchia '08** met while working at the TASIS Summer Programs. They were married in the summer of 2016 on Isole di Brissago on Lago Maggiore. They live in Montagnola where Melody teaches music at TASIS Elementary School and Milo is a freelance videographer and photographer.

"It was love at first sight for me, but I was too shy to talk to her for the first few days," Milo said of first meeting Melody during the summer of 2009. Waiting a bit was probably a good idea. "I do not believe in love at first sight," Melody says. "I do believe you may immediately find a person attractive, funny, or interesting and develop a keen interest, but I do not think you can instantly have the committed, devoted, deep, all-strings-attached kind of love I've come to know with Milo now. Real and true love requires the gift and breadth of time and intentional thought and attention."

*Milo Zanecchia '08 and his wife, TASIS ES music teacher Melody Zanecchia*

Eventually Milo challenged Melody to a game of ping-pong – "I see that as our first 'date,'" he says. During that summer, their interest grew through evening dinners, working together teaching the children English and sharing glances over the students' heads, games of Frisbee on the field with the students, day trips to the Bellinzona castles, and, of course, ping-pong games. "Which I dominated," Melody adds. "The first time he asked me on a date was near the end of the summer close to my birthday. I was amazed at the beauty of La Posta restaurant in Morcote. Now, all these years later, we held our wedding rehearsal dinner in that very place as a fun representation of the beginning."

During the summer of 2015, the couple took a road trip from Switzerland to Mongolia. It was on this incredible trip that both Milo and Melody knew they were with The One. "I knew early on, but the definite proof was surviving the three-month road trip, living out of a truck," Milo says. "No makeup, no showers for seven days at a time, dirty clothes, and long days in foreign places. It made you see the most real version of a person."

Melody's memory is more precise. "I knew Milo was The One on a particular day sitting next to one another un-showered, laughing, studying Russian, talking about the world and the universe, listening to podcast after podcast in a truck driving through Kazakhstan. Even though we had been through quite a bit in life together already, adventuring across the world was when God made it clear to me our futures were going to be together."

For both Milo and Melody, TASIS is a place that brings out the best of people – which can quickly lead to romance. "I've come to believe the School is so captivating mostly because of the type of people it attracts. Many who come to work here exhibit leadership, love for adventure and fun, interest in community, and enjoy interacting with and teaching children." Milo agrees: "TASIS attracts like-minded people. Everyone is on a very similar path and TASIS brings those people who feel 'different' at home into a new home where 'different' becomes the new normal."

*Did you find love at TASIS? We'd love to feature your story! Email alumni@tasis.ch.*

# A COLORFUL CAREER

## *TASIS Hellenic stalwart Rena Deriziotis retires*



“It was in November 1980 and before Thanksgiving when she visited the School,” says Rena Deriziotis, longtime stalwart of TASIS Hellenic (TH), speaking of the first time she met Mrs. Fleming. “The colleagues who already knew her were saying, ‘Mrs. Fleming is here, Mrs. Fleming is here.’ I asked them about this reaction and their repetition of words,” Rena recalls. “They told me, ‘Wait and see.’ They were right. She greeted the faculty by their first names. She was an impressive woman, a coquette, a lady with a good sense of humor. I loved her dresses. She would greet and kiss all the faculty.”

She continues, “What was so funny was that among the male teachers there was one who was extremely introverted, and when Mrs. Fleming would approach him to greet him and kiss him he would literary run, being chased by her! It was hilarious. Once he was ready to climb down the balcony to avoid her!”

Rena began her TH career in September 1980, when she took a maternity leave job teaching Greek. She took over for her closest friend who grew up with her in Sudan and studied at the University of Athens together. “She called to ask if I was interested in substituting for her, and this is how I came to know about the TASIS family,” she says. “Dr. Jack Bruce, the director at the time, was more than satisfied with me during the first year and he personally took it upon himself to offer me a contract. I will always be grateful to him.”

This was the genesis of a colorful career at TH. Her roles, along with teaching Greek, included serving as Class Advisor for grades 7-12, planning bake sales to raise money for the Senior Prom, co-leading of the Advisor Program, organizing and chaperoning local and international trips, scheduling educational visits and class activities, Middle School and Upper School Principal, High School Division Coordinator, Head of the Foreign Languages department, IB examiner, primary school Greek course advisor and high school Greek course director, School Leader, Resource Provider, and Learning Facilitator. An exhaustive list, but one that has resulted in remarkable friendships and stories.

With such a deep knowledge of TH throughout the years, Rena has a particular perspective on how the student body of TH and ISA has changed throughout the years. “External geopolitical factors played the biggest role in the changes of the student body,” she remembers.

“In the early 80s the American base, which was in the area of Hellenikon/Glyfada, was transferred to Turkey and automatically we lost most of our American students. The school went through rough times.” Soon after, in 1983, the boarding section of TH moved to Cyprus, and many non-Greek students moved there. Then in the 1990s, a law was passed stating that no Greeks could enroll at any school with a foreign educational program unless they had dual nationality. “Things changed in early 2000, however,” Rena says, “when the Ministry of Education once again allowed students from Greek schools to follow any educational system.” This was just after TH took on a franchise partner, which eventually ended in 2004 and TASIS Hellenic became International School of Athens, which currently enrolls 42 nationalities.

“TASIS was a family,” Rena says. “It’s been my second home. I was the first one to come here in the mornings. My children went to TASIS, and graduated with a good foundation for empathy. Both studied in prestigious English schools afterward. I’m grateful my children got to go here.”

Rena had a wonderful time at the TH Reunion in Athens in late July. “It is so emotional,” she said at the event. “So many of the people here were my students. Some are just five or six years younger than me! It’s amazing.”

Indeed it is Rena’s dedication to TASIS that is truly amazing.

# MOONBEAMS AND FLAPPERS

## *Suzanne Smith Lynch '62*

The night sky was full of stars and the biggest moon we had ever seen. The boat was gliding thru the waters slowly, quietly, and there was a feeling of being one with the lake. Everyone was dressed up; the men looked so grown-up in their ties and jackets and the women were dressed in their flapper dresses. Was it the 1920s? No, it was 1962—May, to be exact—and the lake was Lake Lugano. There wasn’t a band but there was dance music coming from speakers and a few of us were on the dance floor. When I say a few, I actually meant everyone was dancing—and that was a few! My senior class had exactly 25 students: 4 young men and 21 young women!

TASIS had actually only been open a few years

in 1962, so the subject of a senior prom was not even on the agenda. My roommates and I, all 8 of us, decided that we were seniors and it must be written in the School’s Constitution that a senior prom is mandatory—or at least that year, it was going to happen.

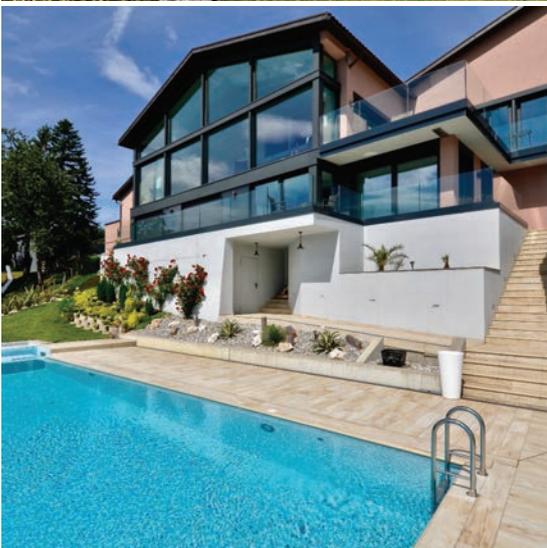
We knew that the girls would have to take the lead and we thought if we could somehow combine it with a bit of history we could convince the heads of the school to let us have a prom. We decided on a 1920s theme because we all had read *The Great Gatsby* and thought flapper dresses would look great on all of us! We went to the school board (appropriately they had the names Mary and Joseph, believe it or not) and pled our case and won! We went to town and

bought fabric and made flapper dresses with fringe in all colors and sizes and everyone tried them on and we all looked terrific. We made the bar sign on the boat a sort of speakeasy theme and set the date.

Now you know the where and the what, but what about all the romance that is heaped onto the senior prom back in America? Well, here in Lugano, we decided no dates since the ratio was so out of whack. Everyone danced the night away, sat at an elegant dining area with fabulous food, and the surprise of the night was the school board secretly bringing wine and champagne aboard for our beverages. It turned out to be a magical, memorable night on Lake Lugano.

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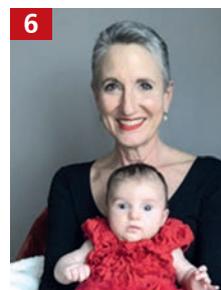
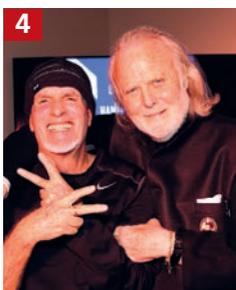


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# ALUMNI *Class News*



## 60

**Class Agent: John Gage** [gage.john1@gmail.com](mailto:gage.john1@gmail.com)

## 61

**Class Agent: Rick Mayne** [fhmayne@optonline.net](mailto:fhmayne@optonline.net)

## 62

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role

**Frederick Morris** is semi-retired and living in the Los Angeles area, although with frequent expeditions into the wilderness. He teaches graphic design and advertising at LA Trade-Technical College. He pursues photography, shooting everything from poisonous spiders to the Perseid Meteor Shower. Still enjoying it all." 1 • **Suzi Smith Lynch** shares with us, "I teach Creative Writing to a senior group every week and Comedy Improvisation at a local Jewish Community Center. Writing and comedy have been the anchors of my life and I love sharing with active, fun-loving seniors who engage in life every day. I live in the West Palm Beach area in Florida and would love to connect with TASIC alumni. Seeking any info on **Nancy Sanderson** or **Joanne Gaskill**." [lynchsuzi@yahoo.com](mailto:lynchsuzi@yahoo.com)

## 63

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Judy Callaway Brand** was in Washington, DC on Mother's Day with her daughter, **Kelly Reynolds TESS '82**. They had a fun-filled evening, dining at the Willard with long time TASIC friends and former staff members

**Mei-Ling and Frank Klein**. Mei-Ling now works at Georgetown University and Frank is with Assisting Children in Need. 2

## 64

**Class Agent: Joe Cook** [jacook4646@yahoo.com](mailto:jacook4646@yahoo.com).

**Fred Roland** is still working, but taking more time off for travelling and spending time with his two granddaughters, aged 15 and 12. 3

## 65

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**John Bachechi** recently watched a program about Lugano. "I thought of my wonderful year there. The School has grown leaps and bounds, but is still absolutely beautiful. I believe we were the first basketball team to travel and play games outside of Switzerland. We practiced at the outdoor courts in downtown Lugano. Great memories and great times. God bless to all."

## 66

**Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman** [ckitsman@aol.com](mailto:ckitsman@aol.com)

**Chuck Kitsman '67** sent us a newsy update about the friends and classmates who attended the Class of '66 reunion in New Orleans in October 2016 (see also photos on p.62). "**Tracy Schornagel Orleans '66** conducts work in preventative healthcare for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, while **Tom Hamilton '67** is the Head of Immunology Research at the Cleveland Clinic and **David Morse '68** is a former winner of the

Cannonball Run automobile rally race. He and his wife Jill cruised the Northwest Passage late last summer, while **Henry Hirsch** enjoyed a trip with his buddies taking exquisite photos of the American Southwest.

**Jennifer Holloway McHugh** spends time sailing on Biscayne Bay, and **Betsy Schultz** started a "dive bar" in San Antonio, Texas. **Jim Gray** started a law firm in South Carolina that now spans several states, while **Anne Hall Billings '67** created a journal for paralegals, sold it, and retired at age 40. **Leslie Hughes Pierpont '67** summers in Nova Scotia, winters in Jacksonville, Florida and is an expert in native plants.

**Debby Webster** has the most adorable grandson in Washington, DC and divides time between Colorado and Hawaii with her husband Steve Blanchard.

**Becca Benton Hanson '67** designs landscapes and environments for zoological parks across the US from her base near Seattle. **Babs Mumma '67** gave us a lovely surprise by dropping in at the last minute. **Leslie Heaton Evans** overcame her fear of air travel to get from the East Coast to New Orleans (Yay Leslie!). While living in Calaveras County, California,

**Sally Stine Rockholt** traveled extensively in France and elsewhere. **Lynn Hallenbeck Staffier '67** lives across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans with lots of family, and **Bill Hess** is President of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. We enjoyed seeing **Mary Alice Lightle** who worked for the Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania. **Jill Hanna Gore '68** is retired and divides her time between Chico, California and Mexico. **Nancy Nickel Resor '67** has an interior design business in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and **Chuck Kitsman '67** and wife Georgia play lots of golf and are working hard to

establish The Center for the Study of the American West (CSAW) at West Texas A&M University. Everyone attending has been doing interesting things in their communities and making a difference in ways that would make Mary Crist Fleming proud."

## 67

**Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman** [ckitsman@aol.com](mailto:ckitsman@aol.com)

Some years ago, **Isaac Tigrett** opened a hospital for impoverished people in India where they have just treated their one-millionth patient! The news came from **Dan Higgins '74** who bumped into Isaac at a going-away party for an executive from Hard Rock Café in Florida. 4

• **Vicky Bryan Perez** has two beautiful grandchildren: Sebastian (5) and Emma (1).

## 68

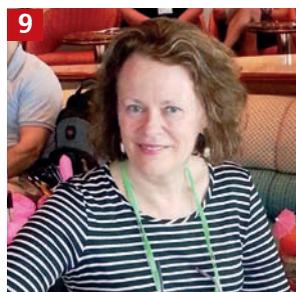
**Class Agent: Pamela Springer Bryant** [ohsaycanuc@cox.net](mailto:ohsaycanuc@cox.net)

**Pam Springer Bryant** writes: "We will have a 50th reunion! We are still working on the details – Tampa FL in March 2018 is one option, or Washington DC in May. Classmates from 1967 and 1969 are invited as well." Contact Pam at [ohsaycanuc@cox.net](mailto:ohsaycanuc@cox.net) to find out more!

• **John Heisel** has retired from a 39-year life insurance marketing career which allowed him to own his own agency and put three children through college! Now enjoying four grandchildren and traveling, living in Rockford, Illinois.

• **Peter Soli** is spending more time in Europe partially for his daughters and partially for his own pleasure. His two teenage daughters, ages 13 and 15, are curious and want to

# ALUMNI *Class News*



know more about Europe and their roots. They currently live and work in Los Angeles. 5

## 69

**Class Agent: Pamela Carrillo Jackson** [pjackson@tectron.net](mailto:pjackson@tectron.net)

**Diana Rader Moyle** spent the last two years remodeling her home in Denver, Colorado. Her husband, Mark, recently sold his sporting goods store and has been busy enjoying outdoor activities. Diana keeps herself busy with Tai-Chi, a sword class, quilting, and book club.

• **Yvette Brault Rogers** reports: "Putting a little love in my life with my sweet little granddaughter! She was a wonderful Christmas present from Alix and John! We are all delighted. I am enjoying being her 'Granty', singing her off-key songs I make up with her name in them, dancing with her all over the house, and dressing her up in outfits that one day she will probably find just too embarrassing! Let's hope the easy smile she has just developed grows with her into a tolerant sense of humor! She makes me laugh with joy all day!" 6 • **Celeste Clement** shares: "I am the last Clement standing, and after many years of caring for my parents I am gearing up to move forward. Looking for a new place to live, but mostly trying to find that resurgence of spirit to travel Europe once again and find a lifestyle of study and fun." Celeste would love to reconnect with classmates and ARTE people of long-ago drama classes. [see. sea1951@gmail.com](mailto:sea1951@gmail.com)

• **Gordon Kirkpatrick** spent a few weeks in Brussels, Amsterdam and Paris over the Christmas holidays. "Great trip showing my younger children where I grew up. Maybe next

Christmas holiday we'll visit Lugano and Italy. My oldest daughter just graduated from nursing school, my oldest son is back from New Zealand and designing buildings in LA, my younger son is an A student in junior high and my youngest daughter recently went to Orlando, Florida and competed in an international cheerleading competition. My wife continues her take-over of the company, leaving me as Mr. Mom a lot of time (which I am, surprisingly, really enjoying!)" 7

• **Peter Boynton** writes: "**Yvette Brault Rogers, Alan Forbes, Bill Burkert** and others have begun wondering about our 50th reunion! Of course it won't be until 2019, but we're urging one another to begin thinking about it and planning a date and venue. Consensus rests on October 2019 and I've suggested Chico Hot Springs. Neither date nor this venue is yet firmed up but classmates may consider this a vague save-the-date announcement! Cheers to all from your junior class president - and Yvette." • **Wendy Jester Garling** is writing her second book and recently went to her son Brett's wedding in Mallorca, Spain.

• **Alan Forbes** writes: "The Bay Area has been my home most of my life and Berkeley has been a great place to raise a family and thrive. **Peter Boynton, Jo Elliff** and **John Youmans** all live nearby and we see each other every few years. **Yvette Brault** jets in often, and is promising to move to the city soon so she can be close to Alix and Leila (her daughter and super-charmed granddaughter). This TASIS graduate has been pretty steadfast and boring, but supremely thankful that TASIS provided me all the tools necessary to be a successful plumbing contractor. I did have to buy some wrenches

and drills, but dear Max Page read John Donne to me and I will forever be grateful for the lessons he gave that explained what life and love could mean to someone receptive enough to appreciate everyday life. I'm 65 now and a guru in Varanasi told me that I will live to be 85 as long as I abstained from you-know-what on Sundays. This guy was Goldie Hawn's guru, so I believe him. When I'm not working, you can find me on a mountain bike or working on a meal in the kitchen with my wife; these are my hobbies and I enjoy them immensely. We also like to travel and went to France in September for 10 days on a self-drive barge on the Canal du Midi and then spent another 10 days driving around Tuscany. Take care everyone, and I will never forget the wonderful people I got to know in that one very special year at TASIS. I will also never forget Mrs. Fleming, who asked me to fix her toilet 10 years ago when we went back for a visit—so sweet." 8

## 70

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Doreen Louderback** shares a photo from a client trade show event—marketing for THA Hospitality Architects & Designers. "Life is still treating my husband and me well in lovely Richmond, Virginia. Would enjoy hearing from any former classmates." 9

• A casual conversation while visiting a mutual friend in Dallas in mid-September 2016 led **Leslie Combs '77** and **Mimi Thompson Downs** to discover they were having an informal TASIS reunion! 10

• **Yvonne Behrens** shares with us:

"With the passing of my husband from pancreatic cancer, my life underwent some major upheavals. I decided that as long as my life was undergoing this shake-up, I would shake it up even more. I sold our house and moved from the East Coast to California. I'm presently living on a boat in the Emeryville Marina across the bay from San Francisco. Beautiful! Retired but not dormant. I'm a member of the Commission on Aging for the City of Emeryville. Still lecturing on all things aging and putting on workshops that center on keeping one's independence as one ages. Enjoying life!" 11

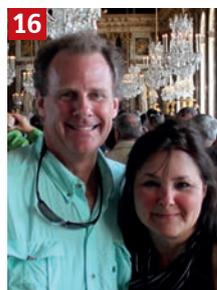
## 71

**Class Agent: Scott Whittle** [inca@earthlink.net](mailto:inca@earthlink.net)

**Leslie Simitch** shares, "Brion and I have recently purchased a beautiful apartment in Arles, France and Brion will be living in it this fall while we are renovating. We'll try to spend as much time as we can there next year but I still have a very full-time job in New York. I see **Pamela Hanson** as often as I can, and of course see my sister **Andrea Simitch '73** a lot!"

• **Evelyn Gustafsson** lives in Ticino. "Love it here. Retired. Love that too. The world is so small or big, depending on one's point of view. We had a mini-reunion this June at Muenger Paradiso with **Nicla Mambretti** and **Clifford Clavel**. Last year I was unable to attend the TASIS 60th reunion gala, but Clifford attended and kindly connected me by phone with my roommate **Cindy Engisch Lisner** and **Laura Snook '70**. The next day Cindy and her husband, Clifford, **Ingrid Arnesen**, and I met for dinner in Paradiso. Time simply flew by." 12

# ALUMNI *Class News*



• **Kevin Freele** has recently retired from work after 40 years in the public mental healthcare sector in Australia. He is now doing healthcare management consulting and part-time work for an organization that accredits healthcare services and hospitals against national healthcare standards.

## 72

**Class Agent: Patricia Mullen-Rempen** [TrishRempen@gmail.com](mailto:TrishRempen@gmail.com)

**Patricia Mullen Rempen** writes: I recently sold my business and wanted to learn more about sailing. Thought we'd live on a sailboat, but instead we bought a 23-ton canal boat and are living on it in the South of France. I have three sons - one living and working in Berlin with his Italian wife and new baby, and the other two are working in Bangkok. I've had a very fortunate life so far, and I'm glad TASIS was part of it!" 13

• **Sharene Treffinger** writes: "Here's a picture of three TASIS graduates! Me, my daughter **Tatiana Ceresa '10** (my daughter Alessandra is the other beautiful young lady!) and **Daryn Hinton '73**, celebrating! I am living in San Diego after attending two years of culinary school in Santa Barbara. I work in the wine, food, and travel business, travelling to Europe as much as possible. I still love to ski and visit my daughters who live in Aspen, Colorado! I was recently with **Danna Blocker Ziv '71** sharing some of our photos from TASIS, and also had lunch in Napa Valley with **Kevin Haug '71**. If anyone is visiting the Del Mar area in California, give me a call!" 14

## 73

**Class Agent: Wendy Barton Benson** [wlbarton3299@gmail.com](mailto:wlbarton3299@gmail.com)

**Yvette Vartanian Baroian** is happy to report, "It was wonderful to be part of the 60th celebration at TASIS. To be back in Lugano was an extraordinary experience. Thank you for hosting a remarkable weekend for us." 15

• **Leslie Trapp** spends most of his time between Lexington, Kentucky and Bal Harbour, Florida. 16

• **Ellen Watson Kent** shares with us: "We have lived in The Woodlands, Texas for the last 20 years. I am an ordained minister in the United Methodist church, directing Children's and Family Ministries at a large church in Kingwood, and also make time to play league tennis as often as possible. Our two boys live close by." 17

• **Andrea Simitch** has recently been appointed chair of Cornell University's Department of Architecture. Andrea has been a faculty member at Cornell since 1986. She served as director of the Bachelor of Architecture program from 2011-14, as Director of Undergraduate Studies from 2007-08, and as Associate Dean of AAP from 2002-03. She was recently awarded the Stephan H. Weiss Presidential Fellowship, the highest award for undergraduate teaching excellence at Cornell. In 2015, she received a residency award for the Baer Art Center in Hofsós, Iceland, and was an Outstanding Educator for the Merrill Presidential Scholar Cornell in 1995, 2000, and 2013. 18

## 74

**Class agent: Kathy Gamble Pilugin** [dulcinea\\_q1@me.com](mailto:dulcinea_q1@me.com)

**Margo Williams Downes** is loving life with friends and family in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "I have lived here

for 35 years. I am an artist trapped in a homemaker's body. Enjoying: home/garden/art/coffee/travel/photography/music/silence/nature/rocks/water/wildlife/wild life. My family consists of husband Joseph, daughter Natalie, stepchildren Isabella, Sophie, Nathanael, Stephon, and Mara, two elderly cats, and two German Shepherds. Enjoyed reconnecting at the DC reunion in 2015 and hope to see more TASIS folks in the future. Would love to hear from old friends." 19

• **Larissa Shmailo** has a new poetry collection out called *Medusa's Country* (MadHat Press, 2017). 20

• **Roubik Aftandilians** writes: "Our daughter Tania graduated and completed four years of residency as an OB-GYN at Rutgers University Hospital and Hackensack Hospital in New Jersey on June 14, 2017. She will finally be back home in Los Angeles after 12 years. Karineh and I are very proud and very happy. I attended the All-Class TASIS Reunion in Miami, Florida in April of 2017. Had a wonderful long weekend with my great TASIS friends / family. Can't wait to see them again SOON...!" 21

## 75

**Class Agent: Linda Jaekel Avery** [Averylin@aol.com](mailto:Averylin@aol.com)

**Nancy Murray** writes: "Celebrating life! Living in Arlington, Texas and having fun remodeling my 1980s home. I am approaching 33 years at General Dynamics/Lockheed Martin, currently as Business Manager for Strategy/Business Development and Communications organizations. My 23-year-old son Doug successfully graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Journalism. Had a wonderful time

visiting him during his semester abroad in Seoul, South Korea. I am writing a book about post-midlife divorce and life transformation. I practice yoga and martial arts. I think back fondly on my days at TASIS with four freshman roommates in one big dorm room. Would love to hear from fellow classmates." 22

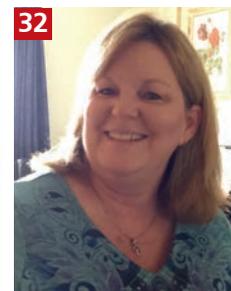
• **Jeanie Cunningham** picked up an award last December given by Opera Arts and the Steinway Society and bearing this citation: "For the Children Inspiration Award. Recognizing you, your music, and all the love you give to the children." 23

• **Linda Gray Davey** met up with **Jennifer Greene '74** and **Dieter Metzger '74** in New York in April, and sent a photo. "So good to see Jennifer and Dieter! It was spur of the moment and not nearly enough time to catch up on 44 years of our lives!" 24

• **Debi Briggs Vaughn** writes: "This May our grandson graduated from high school. It was a very exciting day for us. We celebrated by going on a Caribbean cruise with the whole family." 25

• **Robin '71, Molly '73** and **Amy '75 Thomas** have all ended up in the Bay Area, in Berkeley and Oakland. Robin lives near Lake Merritt in Oakland with her husband Jake and has a grandson nearby and a granddaughter within reach. Add great jazz and amazing food and she is really living the good life. Her youngest son Marcus has opened a fantastic new restaurant in New Orleans, Marji's Grill. Molly is a musician and massage therapist living in Berkeley with her son Dexter. Amy is a bookseller with three stores in Berkeley and Oakland called Pegasus Books. She was widowed many years ago and has three sons.

# ALUMNI *Class News*



• **Shirin Amini** happily reports: "Last year I was privileged to produce a wonderful documentary for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. *An Improbable Dream* tells the story of a number of students from the National Ballet School of Canada's Class of 1981, examining their lives from the ages of 10 until their mid-50s by reconstructing fragments of archival film and personal records. It won the 2017 New York Festivals Gold Medal for Best Performing Arts Program, Gold Medal for Best Direction, and Silver Medal for Best Original Music. In addition we have also won the 38th Annual Telly Award for Individual Documentary, as well as the People's Telly. In between projects my husband, John Shaw and I have managed a few trips including one to the McDonald Observatory in Texas with one of our boys, Travis, where we managed a not-so-bad selfie." 26

• **John Weddleton** sells comics, cards, and games at Bosco's in Anchorage, Alaska. He was recently elected to Anchorage's city council. He married Ronni Adams in August. 27

• **David McDonald** made a little detour on his way home to Minnesota after working in South Sudan and dropped in to visit the campus in Montagnola. It turned out to be the morning of commencement! He looks forward to reconnecting with other alumni from the 70s.

## 76

**Class Agents:** **PK Fields** [pkfields@earthlink.net](mailto:pkfields@earthlink.net) and **Daisy Bilbao** [daisybilbao@bellsouth.net](mailto:daisybilbao@bellsouth.net)

**Domenico Pugliese** is currently Managing Partner at Bridge Partners, a consulting company based in Milan, specializing in Negotiation Skills Training and Consulting. 28

• **Kate Mulrony Wall** visited TASIS this summer with her family. They had a wonderful time. 29

## 77

**Class Agent:** **Rick Mullen** [rdmullen@verizon.net](mailto:rdmullen@verizon.net)

**Rick Mullen** was sworn in as ProTem Mayor of Malibu in April. Congratulations, Rick! He retired from the Marine Corps Reserves as a colonel in 2014 and is now a captain in the Los Angeles County Fire Department in Malibu. Wife **Jen Ball '79** is still working as a dental hygienist. Their son Marshall is 22 and daughter Tatiana is 16. 30

• **Dan Aire** writes: "I turned 58 recently. I almost never do these updates but I thought I would come out of the alumni shadows, as it were. I am the father of an 11-year-old daughter, Iona, and an 8-year-old boy, Andrew. I am married to a lovely woman, Jen, who puts up with my various and numerous neuroses and idiosyncrasies. We live in Victoria,

British Columbia, Canada, a beautiful seaside town. Life has had its ups and downs to be sure but this is a good time, for now. I always will remember my time in Montagnola and TASIS. Not always fondly. But much good came from my time there. In retrospect, what an amazing and formative three years it was. It did not launch me into great success as a professional-type person. I worked in simple jobs which were not intellectually or economically rewarding. They were fine though, for the most part. I concentrated on building community. Building a sustaining life of living simply. I met a wonderful woman later in life, at 44, and now have a wonderful family. Life is good. Not simple. But good." 31

## 78

**Class Agent:** **Heidi Nickels** [heidiv29@gmail.com](mailto:heidiv29@gmail.com)

**Patricia Lewis** is married 30 years and living in Indianapolis, Indiana where she has raised her two now adult children, ages 23 and 28. Her husband Carson is a retired airline pilot and their son is a business owner and works for the fire department. "We are proud of our son's military service. He separated from the Air Force reserves after eight years of service and was the third generation to serve on both sides of our families. My daughter

Sarah is in her last year of college in social services. My brother **Jim '76** lives outside of Chicago and **Mike '74** lives in Fayetteville, Arkansas near his three sons. We remember our years at TASIS as transformative and life-altering. 32

• **Heidi Nickels** has just retired after 33 years in public education, most recently as superintendent for Summit County Schools in Colorado. She moved back to Colorado Springs and will continue to work in education, teaching students at Colorado College, where she also went to college. Her three sons, Dan, Peter, and Ben, are grown and her oldest is married and has a beautiful baby boy, Nathan. "TASIS continues to be one of the best decisions I've ever made!" • **Cora Wen** was in touch: "Just wanted to say hello from a family of alumni (**Eric Wen '70**). We live part time in East Hampton, New York and spend winters in San Francisco. Always grateful for my memories in Lugano." 33

## 79

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Jennifer Mathieson Ito** lives in Hawaii and is working in admissions for Punahou School. Her oldest daughter has completed her doctorate degree from USC and is

# ALUMNI *Class News*



now a working as an occupational therapist. Her middle daughter graduated this past spring from Chapman University with a business degree. Her youngest is a senior at Punahou School and is currently chin-deep in college applications and audition tapes for musical theatre programs on the East Coast. "I am sorry I am never able to make the mainland reunions but would love to hear from anyone traveling to the islands. Making it back to Europe for the first time in 27 years with the entire family; London, Germany and Italy bound. Hope to make it back to Switzerland in the not so near future now that I will have an empty nest in Hawaii. I saw **Brenda Danforth Fleckenstein** on her recent trip last spring to the islands. I drove through the Palm Springs area and had dinner with **Liz Lustig Beer** at the end of July on my way to California from a short trip to Arizona for some more R & R."

## 80

**Class Agent: Antonella Noseda**  
[anoseda@swissonline.ch](mailto:anoseda@swissonline.ch)

## 81

**Class Agent: NouNou Taleghani**  
[nounou@stanford.edu](mailto:nounou@stanford.edu)

**John Osborne** is employed in the commercial printing industry. He recently stated a new hobby that was influenced by European culture—beer brewing! "It's simple, easy, and a heck of a lot cheaper than buying it! Not married, unless being married to your job counts? I'm still the oddball, nutshell, weirdo, and crazy whacko I was back in my high school days in Lugano! I recently re-joined Facebook to reconnect with more fellow TASISians, and the number has grown! Would love to hear from

**Butch Gidney**, Mariah Carey, and **Tana Bertram**! **34**

• **Lisa Hoskins Nicholls** commented on some dorm photos from the 80s on Facebook: "Wow, that's a blast from the past! What is everyone up to? I'm a nana to two grandchildren! Time goes so fast now!"

## 82

**Class Agent: Tania Shetabi Nordstrom**  
[tsnordstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:tsnordstrom@yahoo.com)

**Gretchen Schaefer** writes: "The year 2017 has been a great year. I am going to be a great aunt again. I was in Sarasota, Florida with the family through December 2016 and returned to Ohio with my parents on July 1, 2017." **35**

• **Darryl Bartlett** and his wife Toni have owned and operated an Italian restaurant in Scranton, Pennsylvania for 11 years. They just received their third certificate of excellence from TripAdvisor and are the #1 restaurant in the city of Scranton. They were also recently named the #4 pizzeria in the state of Pennsylvania out of 6,500 pizzerias. They're expecting a grandchild in December, which will make a total of six grandkids. They would love to hear from any alumni.

• **Domitilla Zerbone** writes: "I found myself restructuring old family homes in Genoa and the countryside and turning them into B&Bs and I love it. I now have a big home with a vineyard waiting for me." **36**

## 83

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Todd White** reconnected in October. He has just returned to live in Switzerland, and runs a coatings company for PPG Industries.

• **Stephen Brooks** and his family reunited with the **Sahenk** family for some fun in Orlando, Florida in May, 2017. **37** • **Jen Haldeman** opened Société Fine Flowers, a new retail flower shop in Del Mar, California, on March 9. We wish her all success!  
[www.societeflowers.com](http://www.societeflowers.com)

## 84

**Class Agent: Jeff LaDriere**  
[jeff@ladrierebuilding.com](mailto:jeff@ladrierebuilding.com)

**Camilia Tara** attended the 60th anniversary gala at TASIS and had a blast. "Thanks to everyone at TASIS that arranged this beautiful evening. The musical was fabulous and it was so great to get together! Last year I married my fiancé Dr. Seif (we kind of eloped) and apologies to all my lovely friends who find out by reading the Alumni News! I opened a pharmacy, PharmaExpress, at the Lugano train station and we are the only pharmacy in Lugano open 7 days a week from 7:00-22:00. TASIS staff has always 10% discount on all OTC and cosmetic products. I would like to know if anyone is in touch with **Kim Stringer** and **Elizabeth Small**. Both attended TASIS in 1980." **38**

• **Patrick Conner** is in West Virginia with his wife and six cats, watching the world go 'round. **39**

• **Angela McGrath Moss** shared a picture with us. **40**

## 85

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Dawn Demolli Fowler** writes: "Life is great! Living north of Houston with my wonderful husband Russell. Working for Shell Oil Company keeps me busy with lots of travel. My daughter and her husband are enjoying life in

Hawaii. When we are not traveling we can be found on the golf course. Life is truly great!" **41**

• **Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis** writes: "I just declared my candidacy for California's next Lieutenant Governor. I'll be doing outreach events up and down the state over the coming months." [www.eleniforca.com](http://www.eleniforca.com).

• **Dominic** and **Diane Herman Mauriello '84** recently sent us a photo. **42**

## 86

**Class Agents: Maggie Hammad Boyle**  
[maggie\\_boyle@yahoo.com](mailto:maggie_boyle@yahoo.com)  
and **Denise Mobley**  
[dmobley415@comcast.net](mailto:dmobley415@comcast.net)

**Andrea Cabada Strebin** came to visit with her three kids, and **Giulio Antonello** joined her for a tour of campus. Andrea was enthusiastic about being back and said a number of classmates are planning to return to Lugano next year to collectively celebrate their 50th birthdays. We look forward to helping them with the celebrations! **43**

## 87

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Jennifer Wrapsir** is shocked it's been 30 years since she graduated from TASIS. "Time sure flies. I'm still living in Redmond, Washington and work as a Senior Project Manager at MediaPro (we build adult eLearning courseware focusing on privacy and security). My job has kept me quite busy lately and I'm more than ready for a vacation. I keep in touch with a handful of TASIS alums via Facebook and am always amazed at just what TASIS alums end up doing and the amazing lives they

# ALUMNI *Class News*



lead.” • **James Dempsey** retired from US Army after 28 years, starting a new career as an operations manager for a telecommunications company. He recently completed a three-week retirement trip through Europe.

• **Hanne Larsen** enjoyed catching up with her classmates at the reunion in Lugano in June, and followed up with a few family days in Italy: “We took Lynn’s advice and went to Camogli. We stayed at a really cute bed and breakfast hotel in a small village called Mortola, just outside Camogli. It was really nice!” • **Victoria Waxman Kowalski** lives in Houston, TX with her family. She has 3 teenagers, with her oldest going off to college this fall. She and her husband will celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary this year. 44

## 88

**Class Agent:** **Laura West Presnol** [lpresnol@hotmail.com](mailto:lpresnol@hotmail.com)  
**Maurizio Stroppiana** shares a photo with us. 45

## 89

**Class Agent:** **Lori Ketter Romero** [loriketter@q.com](mailto:loriketter@q.com)  
**Roberta Pellegrino** is working at the Hilton Hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as Operational Manager. She is married with two children. 46

• **Cricket Cooley** updated us recently: “I live with my 7-year-old daughter in Brooklyn, New York. I’m a history and English teacher at a public school here. I’d love to see anyone from the class of ‘88 or ‘89 if they pass through New York!”

## 90

**Class Agent:** **Franca Marena Gullett** [fmarena@aol.com](mailto:fmarena@aol.com)  
**Martin Pearce** sent us a photo 47.  
• **Ken Tobe**, **Michael von Gemmingen**, and **Misako Mori ‘91** are just three of the alumni who sent their kids to a TASIS summer program in 2017 for their own TASIS experience.

## 91

**Class Agents:** **Kristina Malcolm** [kmalcolm44@gmail.com](mailto:kmalcolm44@gmail.com) and **Gina Jose Heydari** [ginajose@hotmail.com](mailto:ginajose@hotmail.com)  
**Gokhan Celik** is president of Alia Yacht Builders in Istanbul. The company had a great year in 2016 and was a finalist in the World Superyacht Awards, winning a Showboats Design Award. Congratulations!

## 92

**Class Agent:** **Miki Schroder Nava** [miki@mikinava.com](mailto:miki@mikinava.com)  
**Rei Inamoto** reports: “After working at two successful marketing agencies

in the last 15 years, I started my own company this year, Inamoto & Co. The beginning of my career started at TASIS. The international exposure and experience I had back then is what really fueled my growth as an individual and has taken me this far.” 48

• **Sophie Desplaces** is living in Dubai, preparing for a big move in 2017 to the US. During her last trip to Houston, Texas in June she met **Dina Barrada** and **DeAnna Vargas Estrada** and they had a great time catching up. 49

• **Monique Ruyle** travelled to Lugano this summer for her 25th class reunion with her daughters and family, and took photos with **Asmat Noori** and **Samira Salman**. “Happy to host any TASIS friends that want to visit us in Seattle. Hit me up on Facebook.” 50  
• **Lucas Fuica** is a filmmaker and actor: “Right now I’ve just finished *Conversations with Mr. Putin* and I worked the cameras on an Oliver Stone documentary that just came out in Showtime in the US.” 51

## 93

**Class Agent:** **Paula Quijano** [quijano.com](mailto:paula@quijano.com)  
**Fernanda Pires** is married with two kids, Antonio and Gabriela. She lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and works as a PR. 52  
• **Jimmy Doorenweerd** shared a picture. 53

• **Loretta McPheeters** had a baby boy, Charles Andrew Alexander Trimble-McPheeters. “We call him Andrew!! We are over the moon with happiness and joy! He is a lot of fun!” 54

## 94

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.  
**Tugrul Celengil** reports: “I am doing fine. I have been living in Izmir, Turkey for the last 11 years. Making sure to travel as much as possible since the good old times at TASIS.”

## 95

**Class Agent:** **Nicole Pearson** [rothko333@yahoo.com](mailto:rothko333@yahoo.com)  
**Jeremy Moncho** writes: “I live in Geneva with my wife Hanane and our kids Soraya and Alexander. I am a computer engineer, and have worked in that capacity for about 15 years. I worked for banks, pharmaceuticals, and tech companies. 5 years ago, I needed a drastic change, and wanted to focus more on meaningful human interactions. I left coding behind me. I was hired as a social worker by the canton of Geneva, and run a state subsidized marketing agency, which employs a workforce of about 95 disabled people. My team works in the fields of graphic design, editing,

# ALUMNI *Class News*



video editing, web development and journalism. As a social worker, my role is to provide a meaningful, inclusive work environment for the team, while also being a teacher and providing administrative support.

## 96

**Class Agents:** **Gina van Hoof** [gvanhoof@gmail.com](mailto:gvanhoof@gmail.com) and **Francesca Nicotra** [mf.nicotra@gmail.com](mailto:mf.nicotra@gmail.com)

**Gina van Hoof** is an Art Therapist in Rixensart, Belgium. This leaves her with more time for her photographic art. She has set up a darkroom in her cellar where the smell of developer and fixer bring back fond TASIS photo lab memories! • **Nazli Celik** recently was named Best Anchorwoman in Turkey—for the fifth time! She works for Star TV, owned by our own **Ferit Sahenk '83**.

• **Terence Lloren** contacted us with an update about his sound art project called *Growing Up With Shanghai*. "It records the stories of Shanghaiese young adults whose adolescence was during the 1990s, when Shanghai was also in its 'adolescence', beginning its major transformation to the metropolis we see today. The stories are in the Shanghaiese dialect and are recorded on location, documenting local customs and dialects, remigration, urban development, and personal history. I produced a digital booklet complete with maps, photos, and translations. The project was produced entirely in Shanghai, where I have been living for 11 years."

• **Nicole Dusang** writes: "After TASIS, and after university, I joined the military. I served for 11 years and then started my Ph.D. at Brown in Electrical Engineering. It's a lot of fun but, a lot of work!" • In July, the BBC announced **Dan Inamoto** as the new



Managing Director of BBC World Japan. Congratulations Dan! **55**

## 97

**Class Agent:** **Kevin McMenamin** [sincap2@gmail.com](mailto:sincap2@gmail.com)

**Maria Camilia Giannella** still lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Her kids attended the TASIS Summer Programs last summer and loved it.

• **Patrick Matta** visited former roommate **Gen Ichino** in Tokyo, Japan this past April. After living together as prefects in Balmelli 21 years ago and graduating together 20 years ago, they had a lot to catch up on. They both enjoyed the best of Japanese cuisine and did plenty of sightseeing. **56**

• **Constanca Teixeira de Freitas Costes** lives in Paris with her husband and three kids and goes often to Rio. "Paris is a wonderful city. We have a great quality of life here, with the parks, culture, etc. Work is great but the family takes most of my time now. Julia is 8, Eva 5, and Gilberto 3." **57**

## 98

**Class Agent:** **John Procter** [johnoprocter@gmail.com](mailto:johnoprocter@gmail.com)

**John Procter** writes, "My wife Vanessa and I had a great time in Florida seeing friends at the Miami reunion in April, including **Toby** and **Veronika '97 Mühlhofer**, and **Andres Baez PG '98**. I'm also excited to be working with **Travis Belgard** on plans for our Class of '98 20-year reunion, which will be held June 8-10, 2018 in Lugano. We'd ask anyone interested that isn't already in touch to email [johnoprocter@gmail.com](mailto:johnoprocter@gmail.com) or find either of us on Facebook. We want to see as many classmates there as we can!" • **Travis Belgard** shares, "In August, Alyssa and I celebrated



our 5-year wedding anniversary. We live with our two-year-old son, Montgomery, in Woodland Hills, California. I am the Key Grip on an NBC comedy called "Superstore", which shoots at Universal Studios Hollywood."

• **Sinan Kosif** is married to Melda Kamhi and they have two wonderful daughters, 4 and 7 years old. They live in Istanbul. **58**

• **Giorgia Di Lenardo Bongarzone** moved to Gozo, a little island close to Malta in the Mediterranean. "The plan is to take it easy this year. We are looking into property investments here in Gozo, specifically holiday apartments." **59**

• **Yvonne Gierczyk Skasko** sent a photo. **60**

## 99

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Paula Wada** worked in finance for many years but decided the time had come for a change, and has most recently been working with a tech startup. She and her husband currently live in London and are looking forward to the arrival of their first baby in November. Next year will most likely see them move back to the US. **61**

• **Andrea Jasson** is still working on board a sailboat, currently based in La Spezia, Italy. He and his girlfriend are planning to vacation, sail, and surf for a while, first in the Mediterranean then in the Caribbean. **62**

## 00

**Class Agent:** **Tatiana Lucchini** [talucchi@hotmail.com](mailto:talucchi@hotmail.com)

**Suyi Chao** and **Chiawei Yang** got their rescue diving license last year.



They will keep diving this year. **63**

## 01

**Class Agent:** **Caroline Rothstein** [caroline.rothstein@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.rothstein@gmail.com)

In April, **Daniel Ciraldo** was nominated as a finalist in the Better Beach Citizen Award by the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce. Daniel has found his passion in life, dedicating his energy to the preservation of buildings of architectural value.

• **Richard Dericks** was married to April on October 22, 2016.

• **Aly Mahfouz** lives in Dubai and works in media strategy. **64**

• **Leah Frost** was married in June 2017. **65**

• **Nikko Karki** and his wife Camilla live in Bali and had their first child, Coralie Marine, in March 2016. Nikko has a yacht charter company and Camilla runs the family restaurant overlooking a rice field. **66**

## 02

**Class Agent:** **Daniella Einik** [daniellaeinik@gmail.com](mailto:daniellaeinik@gmail.com)

## 03

**Class Agent:** **Remington Franklin** [rfranklin@resolution-ent.com](mailto:rfranklin@resolution-ent.com)

**Alexandra von Wobeser** recently moved back to Mexico City after spending two years in NYC working at the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton. After dedicating the last eight years to arbitration and litigation, she decided to become a mediator in international and domestic commercial disputes. **67** • **Enrico Sintoni** is still working with UBS and has been living in Lugano for the past two years.

• **Melanie Balasopulos** writes: "I have recently opened my own digital influencer and marketing agency

# ALUMNI *Class News*



called SO/IN AGENCY AG. It is the first agency of its kind in Switzerland, combining lifestyle/luxury brands with influencers. Also we are the only agency with some of the most successful social media accounts—with over 6 million followers. Our team ranges from fashion bloggers to singers, actors, and famous sports figures. For more info visit our website [www.soinagency.com](http://www.soinagency.com)." 68

## 04

**Class Agent: Masa Yo** [masa.yo@gmail.com](mailto:masa.yo@gmail.com)

**Christof Zaneccia** married **Tia Pederson**, a teacher at TASIS elementary school, on July 8. The happy couple was joined by many friends and the whole Zaneccia clan. 69

## 05

**Class Agents: Eda Aksoy** [edaksoy@gmail.com](mailto:edaksoy@gmail.com), **Maitri Shila Tursini** [maitri.tursini.09@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:maitri.tursini.09@ucl.ac.uk)

**Marta Jankovska** was married in December last year. She is the founder of [www.mimagazine.net](http://www.mimagazine.net), an online fashion magazine based in Barcelona and London. She is also the founder of a creative agency [www.mi-studio.net](http://www.mi-studio.net). Marta graduated from UCL in London and then did a Master's at LSE.

• **Oguzhan Iskenderoglu** and his wife Dina became the proud parents

of Sofia on February 19, 2017. Congratulations!

• **Gregory Polakiewicz** and his brother **Eric Polakiewicz '08** summited Mount Kilimanjaro with their father last October. 70

• **Melanie Holzer Phillips** writes: "I am currently working for the New South Wales (Australia) Police in the illicit drug lab as a forensic scientist and there is a program where you can be fast-tracked to get into Crime Scene, which is where I want to be. You need to get approved and then join the police as a sworn officer as opposed to a civilian, as I am now. There are many hoops to jump through, including doing a course at a local university, so I am currently enrolling in that course to facilitate the process."

## 06

**Class Agent: Hailey Parsons Minder** [haileyparsons@gmail.com](mailto:haileyparsons@gmail.com)

**Christian Denter** shares a photo with us. 72

## 07

**Class Agent: Denise Chiang** [Denise731@gmail.com](mailto:Denise731@gmail.com)

## 08

**Class Agents: Chingiz Aliyev** [caliyev90@gmail.com](mailto:caliyev90@gmail.com) and **Consuelo Marzi** [consumz@hotmail.com](mailto:consumz@hotmail.com)

**2018 marks the 10th anniversary since graduation!** Contact **Chingiz Aliyev** at [caliyev90@gmail.com](mailto:caliyev90@gmail.com) to join the discussions and the planning!

• **Julia Fox** currently lives in Los Angeles and works at Amazon Video as a Content Acquisition Manager.

• **Erdi Yazici** wrote: "I always wanted to open a hotel a little different than the usual concept, and did it in Bodrum, Turkey. It is where **Ferit Sahenk '83's** Maca Kizi Hotel and **Eda Karakaya's** No:81 is. Our hotels are in the same row, but my hotel is smaller than theirs. I have 10 rooms and the hotel makes you feel like you are at home since it's cozy and small. Check it out at [www.galenturkbuku.com](http://www.galenturkbuku.com)."

• **Simon David** is happy to report: "I started a contemporary art gallery in 'pop-up' spaces around Lugano and hopefully around Europe. My mission is to not represent any of the artists but rather works on uniquely curated exhibitions, providing a platform for artists to express creative freedom and to develop new forms of dialogue between local and international artists." [www.galleriaramo.com](http://www.galleriaramo.com)

• **Eric Polakiewicz** writes: "Everything is fine here in Brazil. Quite busy with work, but that is a good thing. My company Container Express, a container leasing company, has operations in Brazil and the US. Apart from that, I have another company that works on special projects with

modular containers Brazil-wide, and I became a volunteer at Make-a-Wish Brazil in 2015, so a lot of things keep me busy. Have been lucky to see some TASIS friends recently. Over the holidays, I had a small reunion with **Chingiz Aliyev** and **Clara Strehle** in Miami. And I recently had a weekend with **Bernardo Madsen '09** and **Anderson Micheluzzi**."

• **Anderson Micheluzzi** visited campus in spring and wrote us afterwards: "I saw a lot of changes... it's a very different school now. I'm working in construction, in Brazil. It's always good to be back in Lugano and I try to go as much as I can, but it's really far from Brazil so it's not that easy. I was on vacation and got engaged while I was there." Congratulations Anderson!

## 09

**Class Agents: Stefano Cremasco** [stefanocremasco@gmail.com](mailto:stefanocremasco@gmail.com) and **Diane Salimkhan** [diane.salimkhan@gmail.com](mailto:diane.salimkhan@gmail.com) and **Serge Bollag** [contact@sergebollag.com](mailto:contact@sergebollag.com)

**Fariza Ahmadova** was the Editor-in-Chief of *Seventy-Eight Magazine* and worked for *COTE Magazine* as contributing writer. She founded fashion blog *Blesque* ([www.blesque.ch](http://www.blesque.ch)) and is the author of *Mrs. Potter and the Snow*, a children's book about where snow comes from which is sold worldwide as an ebook.

# ALUMNI *Class News*



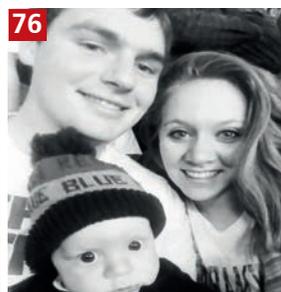
73



74



75



76



77



78

She is currently writing her second children's book. She and her husband live in Geneva and have a four-year-old daughter, Melissa. They often go back to Azerbaijan to visit family. She has visited Lugano and TASIS four times since she left. "Each time I come back there are always novelties making the school look more and more sophisticated and advanced. What fascinated me most was the theatre, being the fan of drama that I am! I want to share my warm memories and wishes with TASIS and express my gratitude for everything the school has come to mean to my friends and me." 73 • **Aaron Richardson** visited TASIS to show the campus to his fiancée Rebecca. He works in finance and commutes between Santa Cruz, California (where Rebecca is doing a Ph.D. in developmental psychology in infants) and New York. 74

• **Won Keol Lee** has a startup food delivery business called Plating, and works together with other TASIS alumni.

• **Michele Riccardi** works in the family metal business near Milan, but also has vineyards and apricot orchards in Emilia Romagna.

• **Sarah Mattar** was married in spring 2017. Many TASIS friends were in attendance. 75

## 10

**Class Agents:** **Sylvie Coll** [scoll1@mac.com](mailto:scoll1@mac.com), **Anna Shabalova** [chanelshoes.girl@gmail.com](mailto:chanelshoes.girl@gmail.com)

**Nils Wienker** writes: "It has been a really exciting journey so far. Around three years ago, after some years of studying abroad, it was time for me to come back to Germany and get involved in the rapidly growing start-up industry in Berlin. After a successful stop at Foodora, a food

delivery provider, I founded two companies a year ago with some friends including two of my former TASIS mates, **Johannes Huntenburg** and **Daniel Dmitriouk**. Last year we met up in Berlin to catch up. We ended up with two fully set-up and running companies in Cologne and Berlin. Cologne-based **Aviatoo** ([aviatoo.com](http://aviatoo.com)) is a company-builder, digital service provider, and strategic consultant which uses customized innovative solutions to overcome clients' challenges. At the moment, we have more than 15 employees working on a large variety of projects and yet are always looking for new opportunities. One of these projects, **Collasta** ([collasta.com](http://collasta.com)), came out of our company-builder and is one of our more important ones, especially for Johannes and me. Collasta is the vision and platform for a new way of experiencing, understanding, and acquiring art by emerging artists. Its goal is to focus on providing emerging artists with as much exposure as possible while utilizing the idea of limited editions as a vehicle for widening the range of potential viewers and sales for the artists. Additionally, collaborations are encouraged and promoted among fellow artists as a way of combining different approaches around a common idea derived from the artists' voices. We are constantly looking for new artists to join our creative journey and companies who want to spice up their walls with an exciting leasing program and support young artists".

• **Jacob Hibbard** is studying Political Science at BYU. He visited campus in June with his wife and 7-month-old son. 76

• **Tatiana Ceresa** writes: "I am currently living in Aspen, Colorado. I am a Destination Manager,

responsible for planning all aspects of vacations for people, and recently got my real estate license and am helping buyers find their second homes in Aspen and Snowmass. I work for Aspen Luxury Vacation Rentals and The Aspen Agency. While I am fresh to the game, my intuition and understanding of my clients' desires allows me to consistently find the perfect home for each person." 77

## 11

**Class Agents:** **Mark Pate** [swisscheese007@gmail.com](mailto:swisscheese007@gmail.com), **Marco Rosso** [marcorosso@me.com](mailto:marcorosso@me.com) and **Katya Brovkin** [katerina.brovkin@gmail.com](mailto:katerina.brovkin@gmail.com)

**Matt Popesco** writes: "Everything is going well. I am currently living in LA and am working in a clean technology incubator based downtown, helping startups grow and bloom financially."

• After over a year of development, **Seva Baskin** launched Campus Board ([www.campusboard.co.uk](http://www.campusboard.co.uk)), a new social network aimed at university students worldwide. The location-based app connects students locally with each other to help them find roommates, trade unwanted items, and more. The app is already gaining popularity in UK, having helped thousands of students successfully trade over a thousand items, find roommates, save on expensive textbooks, and more. 78

## 12

**Class Agents:** **Blair Darrell** [bkdarrell@gmail.com](mailto:bkdarrell@gmail.com) and **Mark Schrotter** [jmschrotter@gmail.com](mailto:jmschrotter@gmail.com) **Daniel Sigg** is living in Alpharetta, Georgia and is working as a political intern with friends of Atlanta politician Peter Aman. • **Vitaly Bakulin**

updated us: "After I left TASIS in 2008, I went to school in Moscow and then studied International Relations at Moscow State University and received my degree in 2014. During my university years I started working in the type of business that I was highly interested in: seafood and fish. From 2012 to 2015 I worked in a company that cultivates sturgeons and sells black caviar all around the world, then I went to Cambodia in 2015-16 to establish a shrimp and crab farm and factory. Now I am in Argentina, working in a big king crab company with a position on the Board of Directors. I have also started doing a master's degree in Buenos Aires."

• **Flavia Alves Caetano** has graduated from university with a degree in Law.

## 13

**Class Agents:** **Samantha Hercules** [sami.hercules@gmail.com](mailto:sami.hercules@gmail.com) and **Sarah Wyler** [sarah.wyler13@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.wyler13@gmail.com) **Gabriele Braglia** is on his way to completing a master's degree at City University, London, in Health Management, and brother **Giacomo '14** is doing well in his second year of a bachelor's degree in Economics and is enjoying Regent's College. • **Illya Berezovsky** has been enjoying his life as a student and hopes to enroll at the International University of Geneva to study law.

## 14

**Class Agents:** **Ryan Osgood** [ryanleesgood@gmail.com](mailto:ryanleesgood@gmail.com) and **Giacomo Braglia** [giacomobraglia@ticino.com](mailto:giacomobraglia@ticino.com) **Milena Luise** is a management student at Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali in Rome.

# ALUMNI *Class News*



- **Debora Castelluccio** is studying Psychology at the University of Turin.
- **Nadine Schellekens** is studying for her B.Sc. in Industrial Design at the Technical University in Eindhoven, Netherlands.
- **Jake Figi** captained the University College London men's rowing team this year, leading them to prequalification for the Henley Royal Regatta, a big appointment in the UK rowing calendar. Congratulations! Jake is on the left in this photo. **79**

## 15

**Class Agents:** **Nathaniel Brener** [nbrener@mac.com](mailto:nbrener@mac.com) and **Tomson Carroll** [tomsoncarroll1996@gmail.com](mailto:tomsoncarroll1996@gmail.com)  
**Yasmin Akcal** is enjoying college. She finished her semester in April and was happy to visit TASIS at the end of May to see some of her friends graduate.

## 16

**Class Agents:** **Edo Italia** [italia27@gmail.com](mailto:italia27@gmail.com) and **Pablo Tello** [pablotellozulu@gmail.com](mailto:pablotellozulu@gmail.com)  
**Gaven Brooks** is a freshman at the University of Alabama where he is studying music. Gaven was in a number of movies in his early teens but took a break during high school. Now that he's in college he intends to resume his acting, choosing projects that require minimal time away from his studies, as well as participating in plays at 'Bama. • **Lucas Figi** has finished his first year at the US Naval Academy and graduated out of "plebe year" by doing the historic Herndon climb, whereby the plebes form a pyramid to retrieve a cup from the top of the Herndon obelisk. There are still three more years to go at the academy but the Herndon

climb is a rite of passage and a proud moment for all midshipmen. **80**

- **Alex Jordan** reports: "Everything is going well. I really enjoyed my first year of University and I actually think that it was easier than the IB program! Boston is a really nice city to go to university in because of all of the college students, but also because it has a European vibe. I hope everything is still great at TASIS. I actually miss the dining hall food a little!"

- **Stan Biryukov** is very happy at University of Sussex in Brighton, UK, where he's studying physics and astronomy.

- **Alessandro Scavia** organized a beautifully presented, day-long jewelry exhibition at the Principe Leopoldo in May, and spent hours expertly showing off the quality of the gems to the appreciative guests. Alessandro passed all his gemology exams in November 2016, without taking the courses, just a few months after finishing high school. **81**

- **Samantha Gianì** is in her final year at a professional school in Lugano, working toward a qualification in social work, which will allow her to work with infants, the elderly, or people suffering from addiction.

## 17

**Class Agents:** **Raid Husni-Bey** [raidbey1@gmail.com](mailto:raidbey1@gmail.com) and **Aida Loggiodice** [aidamercedes99@gmail.com](mailto:aidamercedes99@gmail.com)

## Post-Graduate

**PG62, 63, and 64:** We would like to appoint class agents for these classes. Are you interested in helping out? For more info, email [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch).

## 61

**Class Agent:** **Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit** [jtnesbit@att.net](mailto:jtnesbit@att.net)

**Susan Bradford** writes: "I have started writing my story, as perhaps many have. It begins after high school, and of course, I am on my way to Europe and TASIS. What a year we had. I still remember the library and the night we had to stand there all night waiting for a confessor. That was so ridiculous! My partner, Peter, and I went to Europe this summer. We stayed for a while in Venice and northern Italy, and we also visited Lugano." • **Betsy Brown Phillips** shares: "We spent three weeks in France last year, and I've just returned from a fabulous 10 days in Scotland and Ireland, so we get around a bit. We are planning Northern Italy and Vietnam next year. I am married for the second time, have two grown sons, two grandsons and a stepson and daughter-in law. They live in Greenwich, Connecticut; Palm Springs, California; and near Steamboat Springs, Colorado respectively. Life in Houston is easy and fun. This city is a well-kept secret."

- **Nell Domke** writes: "The layers of our lives have continued with ups and downs and that wonderful year in Lugano/Andermatt just makes me laugh with the memories. We are still in northern Michigan in the little resort town of Leland. Our kids love it here so we're always sure of summer visits, including five grandchildren. I still paint. I think about stopping but I can't."

## 62

**Martha Meagher** graduated from McGill University in Montreal with a BA in sociology and psychology.

Soon after, TASIS invited her to chaperone and teach skiing over Christmas to high school students in Andermatt. In 1970 she opened a successful vegetarian restaurant in Denver with a friend and taught yoga in the mornings. In 1975 she moved to Aspen, Colorado. She got married and has two wonderful sons, Jonah, 40, and Yuri, 37, both married. "I'm waiting patiently for grandchildren. I am now divorced. I have taught skiing here for 30 years. In 2000, after driving weekly to Boulder for a couple of years, I got my master's in Counseling Psychology and built a practice in Aspen. Currently I open up options for people to upgrade what they already do to something that may serve them better. I look forward to catching up with any of you I knew way back when we lived in that awesome villa in Montagnola! Can't wait to hear what you're all up to!" **82**

## 63

**Betsy Van Popering** climbed Mount St. Helens with her daughter in August 2016, at the age of 71, and lived to tell about it! 100 people can get permits to climb the volcano each day. It took her 15.5 hours to go up and back. "Wishing all PGs of 1963 good health and a long life." **83**

## 64

**Harley Rothstein** has spent his life in education, teaching all ages, from being a homeroom teacher in an elementary school through to university, where he taught education. He has fond memories of the PG year and the quality of the faculty, and enjoyed a return to the Villa Negroni in June. **84**

# ALUMNI *Class News*



## 65

**Class Agent: Rick Bell** [rickbell@delawareinc.com](mailto:rickbell@delawareinc.com)

**Jan Kruger** has had her own art business since 1979. [www.jandesigns.net](http://www.jandesigns.net)

## 66

**Class Agent: Ned Lynch** [nedleigh@gmail.com](mailto:nedleigh@gmail.com)

**Mary Seyfarth** shared news and a photo of her latest sculpture, the Owl of Kay: "Kay has left her first home and a couple of friends for her permanent perch a half mile away." Mary has also made initial contacts to bring **Steve Maloney's** "Take Me Home Huey" to Chicago. **85**

• **Cindy Crabtree** writes: I continue to be a senior caregiver, this is a photo of one of my sweet angels in a jewelry shop trying on all the fancy Tiaras!" **86**

## 67

**Class Agents: Geoff Parker** [gspkr@mac.com](mailto:gspkr@mac.com) and **Susan Lo Forti** +1 415 860 6401

The PG'67 class is holding two gatherings in fall 2017 to celebrate their 50th anniversary: one in Moab, Utah on September 30, and another in Washington, DC in November. See the reunion calendar on **p. 65** for more info.

• **Jay Noyes** and the band The East Fork Four—aka The Hip Replacements—played an outdoor venue in Sun Valley, Idaho in July 2016. The eclectic mix of rock & roll, folk, and Bluegrass inspired **Susan Lo Forti** to dance and play percussion while visiting from Palm Springs, California.

• **Eric Schloen** recently relocated to

California's High Desert, becoming a semi-retired paralegal after working both for and with attorneys for over 36 years.

• **Susan Lo Forti** and **Ruth Bowman Russell** reunited in Lugano 50 years after the PG year that made such an impact on their lives, and enjoyed a trip back to the Villa Negroni to reminisce. Ruth remembers jumping into the arms of a statue; the statue is still there, but the arms have gone. Did someone else, less petite than Ruthie, perhaps try to emulate her feat?! **87**

## 68

**Class Agent: Kathy Sanders-Phillips** [ksandersphillips@aol.com](mailto:ksandersphillips@aol.com)

**Helen Lovejoy Battad** writes: "I have been retired from teaching special education for seven years. I volunteer at a community service center with kids. My husband and I have taken several trips to Costa Rica, New Zealand, and China. Most recently we took a cruise on the Columbia River in Oregon."

*\*From 1972 onwards, the High School Class Agents serve the PGs as well.*

## 80

**Linda Bassett** published a book this year called *Sea, Sand and Silica: Two Artists, Two Visions*, featuring photographs of her glass sculptures on the California coastline and poems to complement the pieces.

## 84

**Brad Farwell** performed in the play *Charles III* at the A.C.T. San Francisco in September 2016, at the Seattle Repertory Theatre in November-

December 2016, and at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington DC in February and March of 2017. He lives in Seattle, Washington with his wife Kate and two daughters, Willa (7) and Poppy (4). **88**

## 87

**Kelly Port** reconnected with **Mark Aeschliman** in January and sent him a nice update: "I went to UCLA 87-91, then did some odd jobs for a couple of years. In 1994, I started working at a visual effects/animation studio called Digital Domain. I married in '97, had a daughter named Ginger and a son named Brode. I ended up getting a divorce in 2013, but I'm still close to my ex and have a great relationship with the kids. I'm a Visual Effects Supervisor, reporting to the director for big feature films and generally have teams under me of anywhere from 100-400 people... crazy! I was recently part of work for *Beauty and the Beast*, which came out in March."

## 88

**Ann De Sutter Lipofsky** is living in Denver, Colorado with her husband of 19 years and her three cats. "Life is full and beautiful. I see patients in my naturopathic practice and am fulfilling a dream of launching a business of a plant-based apothecary and practicing the art of Soul Level Astrology. We got certified to scuba dive in 2016 and enjoyed spending time in the depths of the ocean in Belize." **89**

## 89

**Jason Prohaska** is living between Brooklyn and Ravenna and working for Media Monks ([www.mediamonks.com](http://www.mediamonks.com)).

He stays in regular contact with **Matteo Bizzini '88**, **Angela Rovelli '89**, **Clare de Graw '90**, **Jason Snyder**, and **Marcello Sassi '89**. **90**

• **Jane Pollock Wirch** lives with her husband and two boys in Boston. She teaches writing and freshman English at Regis College. She's in touch with a few TASIS friends, but is always open to hearing from more!

## 90

In 2014 **Haley Boehning** co-founded Storyforge, a strategy company that works with businesses to create meaningful stories so they can build brands that matter. In 2017, Haley became a founding board member of the Central Ohio Chapter of Conscious Capitalism. While working for a client who is the county's oldest Harley-Davidson dealer in the United States she found the perfect reason to reach out to **Elizabeth Zaborowska '92**, a passionate Harley rider, to catch up while doing customer research. She also checks in with **Trevell Balsler** who works for another client in Columbus, Ohio, and sees **Gail Bragg Howey SH '63** when she visits Florida, where Gail and her husband Bill have a house right next door to Haley's parents! **91**

## 94

**Holly Morse** shares a photo. **92**

## 96

**Catalina Llinas** reports: "On April 21, 2017, we welcomed our daughter Emma Aurora Gustafson. Our family is now complete with her and her 4-year-old brother, Martin. I have been working with Aristotle Capital Management for the last decade, and we live in Newport Beach, CA." **93**

# ALUMNI *Class News*



## Summer Programs Swiss Holiday

### 60

**Lee Shapleigh** reconnected with TASIS 57 years after attending the Swiss Holiday summer program and shared this charming reminiscence which epitomizes Mrs. Fleming's ability to single people out and give them responsibility: "I arrived on campus for the Swiss Holiday program in the summer of 1960 and, after several days, Mrs. Fleming asked me if I would be a VW bus driver with **Manny Bucher**, from Basel, who was in command of Bus 5. At age 16 and with my relatively new US driver's license in hand, I gladly agreed to her request. When I was not at the Villa, Manny and I covered many enjoyable miles with our TASIS crew happily in the back of the bus."

### 62

**Christopher Chapin** lives in Washington, DC. He's a graduate of St. Paul's School, Yale, and Wharton Business School, and served as an officer in the Navy. He's now semi-retired and is an independent consultant working for companies implementing zero-based budgeting

to reduce or reallocate corporate overhead expenses. His wife Carroll is from Mississippi and came to Washington to work for a senator. Christopher's family used to host **Mrs. Fleming** when she came to Detroit. They now go to Nantucket in the summer and travel internationally. **94**

### 66

**Sara Peters Davidson** lives in Seattle, Washington where she's lived with her husband Tim, for 45 years. Their three children and their families live in Seattle as well. They have three wonderful grandchildren, Tucker, Amelia, and Kinsley. Sara would love to have her family visit TASIS someday.

## Project Europe

### 70

**Sophie Lugo** shares a photo with us. **95**

## TSLP/TSP

### 80

**Heimata Grand** still lives in Tahiti where he is a teacher of history and geography in a college. He is still in touch with **Bernd Kammerer** whom he met during the summer in TASIS. **96**

### 87

**Fadi Al-Idrissi** writes: "I received my M.Eng. in chemical engineering from the University of Ottawa with summa cum laude distinction in October 2012. Currently, I live in Guelph, Ontario, Canada." **97**

### 91

**Francesca Boggio Mesnil** shares a photo. **98**

### 08

**Evangeline Enriquez** is a freshman at USC, and is working hard and happily.

### 11

**Erika Osade** and **Arianna Calo** visited campus together in April. Erika is in her third year at the University of Edinburgh and is studying International Relations, while Arianna is living in Milan and studying at Bocconi University.

### 13

**Nico Kline-Bartels** is at the University of Portland and thriving. Grandpa **John Gage '60** wrote "It is wonderfully satisfying to observe his enthusiasm and the energy with which he is throwing himself into the experience."

• **Nick Vos** is studying mechatronic engineering near Zurich and writes: "I am in my first year and finding the program interesting and challenging."

### 16

**Hannah Kline-Bartels** is a junior in high school and planning on going to the east coast for college.

## Fleming College

### 70

**Roger Smith** enjoys his job of being head of A. O. Smith Foundation and doing PR work for the company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "I get out to see many fine charities to make sure they are spending the dollars we give them wisely. I play golf weekly and paint landscape scenes in watercolors and do pencil drawings. I am building up my portfolio for a show. I am active at our church leading worship and this fall I will be teaching adult Sunday School. My family is doing great. My oldest, Josh, just finished his MBA while working at Rockwell Collins as a Project Engineer. Our daughter Katie was married October 1, 2016 in Milwaukee. She lives in Florida. Anneliese, our youngest, finished her last year at Purdue University studying industrial engineering. My

# ALUMNI *Class News*



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wife Judy is active at our church leading worship for the women's Bible study. She also is the music teacher at a preschool."

## TASIS France

87

**Marc Hyman** visited campus in summer 2016 and wrote: "So many memories flooded back to me of the great years I spent at TASIS England and that strange winter we attempted to colonize France. Since our visit, I reminisced with **Chad Oman '83**, and yesterday I bumped into a friend of mine who taught at TASIS in the 1970s, **Richard Mitchell**." Marc is a screenwriter and has also been a guest speaker at UCLA's graduate school in film.

## TASIS Hellenic

82

**Urina Adams** has two children and three granddaughters. She and her family are all happy and thriving. **99**

85

**Sia Pittara Pettaras** wrote: "We made a life-changing move back to the US in 2010. I have two daughters, Evgenia and Eleni. Both adapted very quickly and learned English within four months. They both love school, sports, animals, and anything around STEM. I currently work with K-12 school districts consulting, designing, and future-proofing their technology decisions. It is mind-blowing to see the impact that these decisions have and make on the lives of the



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students and the improvement of student learning and engagement in the classroom. I am always happy to keep in touch with old classmates and look forward to seeing anyone who comes to Chicago."

88

**Sophia Angelis** has been living and working in London since 1999 and loves it! Her daughter Pia, 7, has decided she will become an explorer-scientist-hiker, inspired, by a great holiday they took as a family in Greece hiking on the Mainalon trail, in central Peloponnese. Sophia has been working for Brown-Forman, the company that owns Jack Daniel's, for the last 15 years and was recently promoted to the role of Global Brand Director for the newest member of the Jack family, Tennessee Fire. "I keep in touch with my TASIS friends mainly via Facebook and smile at some of the photos that have resurfaced, bringing back some good memories!" **100**

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**Will Vassilopoulos** was honored with the prestigious 2017 Rory Peck Award for his reporting on the refugee crisis (see more on page 52).

98

**Kathleen Swift Poulides** sent an update: "Following university studies in the UK, I worked as a Brand Manager at Sarantis Group in Athens for a few years and in 2007 moved to Paris, where I eventually attended a full-time course to change my vocation, becoming a certified Montessori Teacher for children aged 3-6. I am married to



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a Greek-Italian and we have two children."

99

**Anushya Singh-DuBrier** writes: "After graduating from Temple University in Philadelphia, I made marketing collateral for a company in the housing industry in central Pennsylvania. When the housing market crashed in 2006, I landed a job doing entry-level data entry for a market research company in Philadelphia and by 2012, I was the head of their qualitative research department. Unfortunately, I had to leave that position later that year when my husband, a commissioned officer in the US Army, was relocated to Los Angeles. However, the stars aligned, and the day I gave my notice, one of my clients had a remote position open in their International Qualitative Market Research department. I have been a Senior Project Manager with them since June 2012. Attending TASIS Hellenic and living in Athens with a bunch of international students has given me a broad knowledge of cultures, and that experience has enabled me to be successful in my current position."

## Former TH Faculty

**Karl Christiansen** is celebrating his retirement by walking from his home in Windsor, England, to Athens to raise funds for Chance for Childhood and Cancer Research UK. He began in April, expecting the walk to take about four months. As of July he had made it to central Italy, having walked over 1000 miles. **101**

• **Chris Tragas** has retired from ISA after 38 years of service with first TASIS Hellenic, continuing with ISA after

TASIS pulled out. Instead of going for a relaxing retirement, he is now working year-round at TASIS England.

• **Rena Deriziotis** has also just retired, after 37 years with TH and then ISA. See articles about both these beloved teachers on pp. 46 and 69.

## Former Faculty

**Tom Bendel** is starting a new adventure as Head of School at North Jakarta Intercultural School. "Jenny and I are pretty excited to be here—there's a lot to do, but we expect to grow a lot personally and professionally. All our best to everyone at TASIS! We'll surely be by to visit again in the near-ish future." • **Jeremy Birk** continues to work as Assistant Principal at the United Nations International School (UNIS) in New York City and attended the ECIS conference in Copenhagen in November 2016 as the Facilitator of the Blended Learning Lab, a professional development program that was developed and has been successfully delivered at UNIS since 2014.

• **Chris Carlsmith** is a Visiting Scholar in the History Department at Stanford University, where he will concentrate on writing a book about the history of student colleges at the University of Bologna from 1500-1750.

• **David Damico** wrote to say: "My wife **Melanie Matthews Damico**, Samantha (7), Luca (5) and I had a world class two-week visit to TASIS, Zermatt, and Chateau-d'Oex in summer 2016. We greatly appreciated the warm welcome by former colleagues (summer and school alike!), many of whom remain dear friends. The campus and school is not only looking world-class, it is world-class. Thank you for welcoming us back, Lynn—and everyone."

# ALUMNI *Class News*



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• **Bo Dixon** wrote to the Class of '66 reunion: "I wish I could be with you in New Orleans. God knows you need me to chaperone you in that city. I am retired after 30 years of being a headmaster and working with great kids like you. I am living in Baltimore, working with disadvantaged kids, chasing after my three kids and four grandchildren. I have great memories of my year at TASIS and of **Ray Robbins** and **Mary Crist Fleming**. Mrs. Ann Dixon and I will celebrate 50 years of marriage later this fall. Please give my best to everyone and have a great time!"

• **Nat Fleck** has become a keen photographer and recently created a book about Audubon Park in New Orleans. He updated us in September 2016: "I was at TASIS with the PG classes of '66 and '67. They were two great years. Sometime after that I worked in schools in Africa for over four years. But Lugano was one of the top highlights of my life. It was wonderful. I am retired and love to hear what is going on there now. Maybe you need a math or physics teacher?" **102**

• **Anne Frost** wrote in July: "Summer was slow in coming to Maine, but it has indeed arrived and gardens are flourishing. **Chris** is now chairing the board of Coastal Senior College, and I've joined the board of Tapestry Singers, the group that we've both been singing with for the past few years. Our conductor chooses music that is not the usual fare, often by contemporary composers and much of it in eight parts, providing lots of challenges. Our spring concert featured "Sunrise Mass" by Ola Gjeilo. All our kids and their offspring (five boys – **Simon PG '95's** two and **Molly '98's** three) are thriving. We had everybody here in June for **Leah '01** and Katherine's wedding



(which was lovely and lots of fun) at Simon's farm and were delighted that **Lisa Baker** and **Tarim Chung** and their three beautiful daughters were able to come. We'll have all five grandsons with us again at the end of the summer when the four older will attend sailing camp here in Round Pond and Molly's youngest will hang out with me. Chris and I continue to be as politically active as we can, badgering our senators and congress people in hopes that we can help stave off some of the looming legislation that threatens this country, and that it will make a difference in the 2018 elections." • **RJ Hawley** has been at the Avalon Schools in Gaithersburg, Maryland, since 2003 and updated us in September 2016: "I am now responsible for both the boys and girls schools, have a desk at each, and keep busy with the Board, finances, development, and teaching one class in the afternoon at the girls school. **Kristen** and I have four kids, all in our schools, Maggie is in 10th grade and Will, who was born in Lugano, is in 9th. All four play soccer, the scheduling of which is the most challenging part of my life. Kristen became an Episcopalian priest three years ago, after three years of seminary and several years of discernment before that. She works full-time at a 200-year-old church in Georgetown, DC, which is what passes for very old in the US." **103**

• **Taylor Johnson** is trying out a new career. After working 20 years at Flint Hill School where he went after TASIS, he re-trained as a real estate agent and started with an agency in May. All the best, Taylor!

• **Steve Loesche** continues to enjoy retirement: "I was back in Switzerland for most of June and attended the class of '87 reunion. In spring I did a music tour in the US, including



a Bluegrass festival in Lincolnton, Georgia, in May."

• **Dave and Mary Miller** live in Camden, Maine. "It is pretty exciting, as this Chekhovian move has been in the works for years. There were times when we were not sure it would ever come to pass but in the moments between snowfall, in early February, we started unpacking and unpacking. We were in Northeast Harbor for the summer with Sweet Soles-seasonal only, from mid-May to mid-September. In between, there will be some wandering, but for the most part, you can find us at home."

• **Rich Mitchell** keeps busy with many intriguing projects. In fall 2017 he plans to put on the play *No Man's an Island* in Oxford, England. In the meantime, his history book on California, *Strawberry – Valley of Legends*, came out on July 4, and tells the story of the "cavalcade of immigrants who rambled by ... [and] forged our Western history and our myths", becoming legends in the process. Email [cazsonoma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cazsonoma@sbcglobal.net) to find out more.

• **Phytos Papaioannou** is currently headmaster of St. George Lyceum, a school for 600-700 students aged 15-18, in Lakatamia, Nicosia (Cyprus). Before this he was the headmaster at a school in Agros Village, Limassol, which combined a high school and hotel school serving some 350 students ages 12-18.

• **Mimi Quadri** writes: "I left Lugano to go to Barcelona and learn Spanish. At the university I met Dino and the following year we got married. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on July 22 with our three boys, their wives, and our five grandchildren. I'd like to conclude these few lines by sending *un forte abbraccio alla mia amica Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63* and to all the members of her family." **104**

• **Beverly Check Stevens** has been teaching for the last 18 years at Hong Kong International School as a middle school math/science teacher. Her kids both attend the school and just finished Grade 3 and 1. She wrote in May, "I'm getting excited thinking about summer plans and places we will have a chance to revisit! The school year is winding down as we enter into the final few weeks. Always a mad dash to the end!" Everyone who works in a school can relate to that, Bev! • **Vincent van Panhuys** has a new position as Director and Senior Attorney at American Airlines, based in Washington DC. • **Scott Wiens** left Minnesota in August 2016 after 17 years in the Mounds View School District. "I'm currently working at St. Thomas High School in Houston where I am the Director of Counseling. St. Thomas is a boys college preparatory school located in the center of the city. We are keeping our home in Minnesota as both of our families are there. Additionally, I am a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota and plan to complete and defend my dissertation this year. My topic is leadership in schools that are successful preparing students for college. I hope all is well at TASIS and look forward to visiting again."

• **Hendrik Woods** shares: "I've had a good time with careers in education, government, and multinational business which took me to over one hundred countries. The best job of all is my current parenting stint, under the wise guidance of my hard-working wife. Nate is a total delight and my true Fountain of Youth, much better than playing golf or shuffleboard. At dinner last night the conversation was about who was the better general, US Grant or DD Eisenhower. Have a wonderful older son Hal in Chicago and Henry, the most adorable grandson in all the world."

# ALUMNI *Class News* - IN MEMORIAM



## IN MEMORIAM

**Ford Barrett SH '59** passed away on February 14, 2017 after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer. A golfer, tennis player, amateur historian, and world traveler, Ford was also an active member and volunteer for St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Preservation, Virginia, and took great pride in his experience with TASIS. He also served in the US Army Reserve. For 42 years, he was a litigation attorney for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency with the US Department of the Treasury. His son Hugh sent us the sad news, adding, "He was very proud of and fond of TASIS and visited several times. He kept up with Mrs. Fleming while she was still alive and both my brother and I had the chance to meet her a few years before she passed." We remember Ford fondly, and saw him on a number of occasions at reunions in Washington, DC, and also when he joined an alumni hike in the Berner Oberland in 2011. **105**

**Jay Bell TH '91** died early in 2017. The news was shared by **Bettina Zachariou de Young TH '94**: "TASIS family, unfortunately we have lost one of our own, Jay Bell. From my observations he was a sweet, strong, shy soul who surrounded himself with positive, fun people. He recently lost his battle with stomach cancer, leaving his family devastated from the loss. If you could take a moment to show some love to those he left behind with a donation, no matter how big or small, it all helps. May his soul Rest In Peace. Jay, your TASIS family bids you goodbye on your journey to the other side. Much love and our heartfelt condolences to the Bell Family." **106**

**Nikolas Anthony Kontaratos TH'80** passed away on April 19, 2017, in Los Angeles, California, after complications from a stroke. Nicky had graduated from TASIS Hellenic in 1980, when he had been voted "sunniest smile". A memorial service was held for him in Glyfada in May, organized by his sisters

**Maryanna TH '81** and **Gina TH '85**, at which many of his TASIS friends were present. Nicky is survived by his two children, Kaylie (age 19) and Anthony (age 16).

**Roger Korfmann '83** died on February 23, 2017, in Radnor, Pennsylvania. The sad news was shared by **Karin Knolle '82**, who wrote: "Godspeed, old friend, until we meet again. May the symphony never stop. Much love for you and Mr. Sylvester and all the other TASIS family members who have gone before." Roger was raised in Zurich and Lugano and went to college at the University of South Carolina. He worked as a computer software developer for Unisys Corp in Switzerland, The Dresdner Bank of Zurich, Premier Solutions Ltd - a Safeguard Scientifics Company, ESF Day Camps, and for the last six years with AlignAlytics in Wayne, Pennsylvania as a computer product developer and engineer. He will be remembered for his passion for the social and cultural arts, his love of teaching and technology, music, travel, photography and skiing. He was a lifelong tennis and paddle tennis player and won many Swiss tennis awards as a youth at the county, state and national level. Roger was the beloved father of daughters, Isabella, Sophia, and Amelia Korfmann and a loyal and cherished friend to all who knew him. He emanated peace and kindness, warmth, humor, and love for his family.

**Warren Jordan MacIsaac (former headmaster 1958-59)**, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, humanities professor, and dramaturg, dedicated his life's work to literature, history, drama, and professional theater. In a long career, he worked with and taught some of America's most accomplished actors, directors, and playwrights. He died on November 14 at his residence in Washington, DC. He was 86. After his year at TASIS, Dr. MacIsaac returned to school, earning a master's from Harvard College and a Ph.D. in English from Harvard University. During this time he

taught at Phillips Andover and MIT, then went on to spend 25 years at Catholic University in Washington, DC, where he was a professor in the Department of Drama until his retirement in 1995. Dr. MacIsaac was a leading expert on the works of Shakespeare, as well as on modern European drama, particularly the works of Ibsen, Strindberg, and Chekhov. He was regularly published in literary and scholarly journals such as the *Shakespeare Quarterly*, and wrote playbill articles placing dramatic works into historical and social contexts for modern audiences for virtually every major theater in the Washington, DC area, including Arena Stage, the Folger Theater, and the Shakespeare Theater. He also worked as a fellow at the National Endowment for the Arts evaluating theater programs that were applying for grants. He did similar evaluations of theaters in New York City for the New York State Council for the Arts.

**Richard Pye '82** passed away on August 22, 2016, from pancreatic cancer. **Annette Roetger Rossi '86** sent us the sad news. We send our condolences to Richard's family and friends.

**Tom Sylvester (former faculty 1980-82)** died on January 17, 2017 after sustaining a head injury on Christmas Eve. Tom taught at TASIS and later worked in Admissions at Brophy and Phoenix Country Day. Tom was a great dad and he loved to coach and mentor students. Tom is survived by his wife Sue, daughter Ashley, son Alex, and sister Gail. The news prompted a huge outpouring of sadness among alumni who remember him well, and former TASIS colleagues, including **Mike McCormack** who delivered a eulogy at the Memorial Service. "When I think of Tom, I remember a funny, smart, perceptive, kind and very athletic young man. We met as fellow faculty members in Montagnola where we both shared duties as new hires starting in the summer of 1980, more than 36 years ago! I, being the Director of Student Activities, could always depend on Tom. He was loyal,

trustworthy and dependable. He was my go-to guy and always believed in and helped execute my crazy ideas. I could always count on him." **107**

**Azer Yagubov '12** died in a car accident in Lugano on November 24, 2016. At the Memorial held on campus on January 22, moving tributes were made by Azer's brother **Eyyub '16** and by many of Azer's friends, some of whom traveled halfway round the world to show their support for Azer's family and to remember the "loving son, caring brother, and loyal friend." Among the many memories shared on that occasion, Azer's love of life and infectious good humor came out, as well as his leadership qualities on the soccer field and on Student Council. As teacher **Danny Schiff** remembered, "He probably is the only person in TASIS history to be selected as Student Council President twice. When he was first elected President, he decided to repeat his 11th grade year so technically could not serve as President (the constitution states that the President must be in the 12th grade.) Well, Azer found a way—he appointed himself Prime Minister instead of President. The next year when he was in the 12th grade he was once again elected as President." Azer is greatly missed by his TASIS family, and we share in the sorrow of Eyyub and his parents. **108**

**Carly Klapp Yarnell '77** died in October 2016 following a tragic fall at home. Her friends and classmates are shocked and saddened, especially **Louise Jordan Beales** who told us the news and had been her friend since kindergarten. **John Stifler** wrote "Very sad news indeed. While we were all at TASIS that year, several of us on the faculty were so delighted by the way Carly really seemed to grow into the place, to transform herself from uncertain and critical to positive and engaged, a wonderful young woman who added a lot to our sense that being a teacher was not only worthwhile in sociological terms but constantly both surprising and fun."

# WAYS OF GIVING BACK TO YOUR ALMA MATER

*What we are doing, or at least attempting to do, is to create not international schools but international human beings, men and women who are capable of moving easily in any society and any civilization on the face of the earth. - M. Crist Fleming*

## **Support the TASIS Global Village**

The Global Village (see p 30-31) is an ongoing challenge through 2028. Naming opportunities are available for upcoming projects, and donations are always welcome to complete our Global Village.

## **Annual Appeal**

Contributions to the Annual Appeal allow program expansion above and beyond our planned operations. Projects funded in recent years include a state-of-the-art language lab, new equipment for our athletics and photography departments, and classroom sets of library books for our MS and ES.

## **The M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership**

This special fund supports international service projects, the Senior Humanities Program, student scholarships, and professional development for teachers.

## **The M. Crist Fleming Legacy Society**

Naming TASIS as a beneficiary in your will, trust, or retirement asset provides a future source of support for students, faculty, and programs. Contact the Development Office for more information.

We are grateful for the following announced or received bequests:

Paulise & Rick Bell PG '65

Chris Draz '70

Maude Glore PG '67

Richard Jensen '73

Ned Lynch PG '66

Nicholas Major PG '68

Dieter Metzger '74

Nick & Maggie Miles

John E. Palmer '64

If your name should be on this list, please contact us so that we can celebrate your generosity during your lifetime.

## **Awards or Scholarships**

Set up an award or scholarship to reward students for achievements in a given field, or to inspire students in a particular discipline. Currently, two annual awards for juniors are provided by the Pritzlaff Fund and the Cathy Clark Memorial Fund, while the Jacob Memorial Fund supports a biennial poetry residence program and an annual poetry award.

## **Alternative Donations**

Other ways to give include corporate matching gifts and corporate stock, contributions through a life insurance policy, a Charitable Remainder Trust, or a non-cash gift in kind.

**Time and goodwill** are always valuable and welcome gifts!

**Thank you for all that you do for TASIS!**

## **HOW TO MAKE YOUR DONATION:**

- by credit card online at [www.tasisgiving.com](http://www.tasisgiving.com)

- by check to the TASIS Foundation, Inc., 112 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

For wire transfer information, or any other questions, please contact: [yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch](mailto:yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch)

*Donations to the US TASIS Foundation, Inc., a Section 501 (c)(3) non-profit educational organization, as well as to the Swiss Foundation, are tax deductible to the extent allowable in their respective countries.*

Informational booklets available online ([www.tasis.ch/support-tasis](http://www.tasis.ch/support-tasis)) or in print: The TASIS Global Village: Trajectory 1996-2028, and Making a Difference: Supporting TASIS Past, Present, and Future

# TASIS SUMMER PROGRAMS 2018

## LUGANO (AGES 4½-18)



- English, French, and Italian for ages 4½ to 18
- Musical Theater and Academic Writing for ages 11-18
- Introduction to the IB, Digital Photography, Architecture & Design, Fashion & Textile Design, Italian cooking classes, and Lean Startup entrepreneurial course for ages 14-18
- Outdoor sports include lake, mountain, and creative activities
- Many excursions explore the best of the heart of Europe
- Located on the picturesque, award-winning TASIS campus with stunning views of the Alps

## TASIS ENGLAND SUMMER PROGRAM (AGES 10-17)



- Courses in Geometry, Writing & Speaking Enhancement, Middle School Skills, Debate & Public Speaking, British Council-accredited English as an Additional Language, SAT Review & College Admissions, TOEFL Review, IELTS Review, TV Production, the Magical World of Harry Potter, London Through a Lens, Fashion & Textile Design, and Sketching & 3D Design
- Sports and activities
- Weekend travel throughout Britain
- Located on a beautiful campus 18 miles southwest of London

## LES TAPIES ART & ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM (AGES 14-18)



- Hands-on study in architecture, painting & drawing, and photography
- Excursions draw on the cultural richness of France
- Idyllic location in a beautifully-restored 17th-century stone hamlet
- Intimate artistic community for talented students

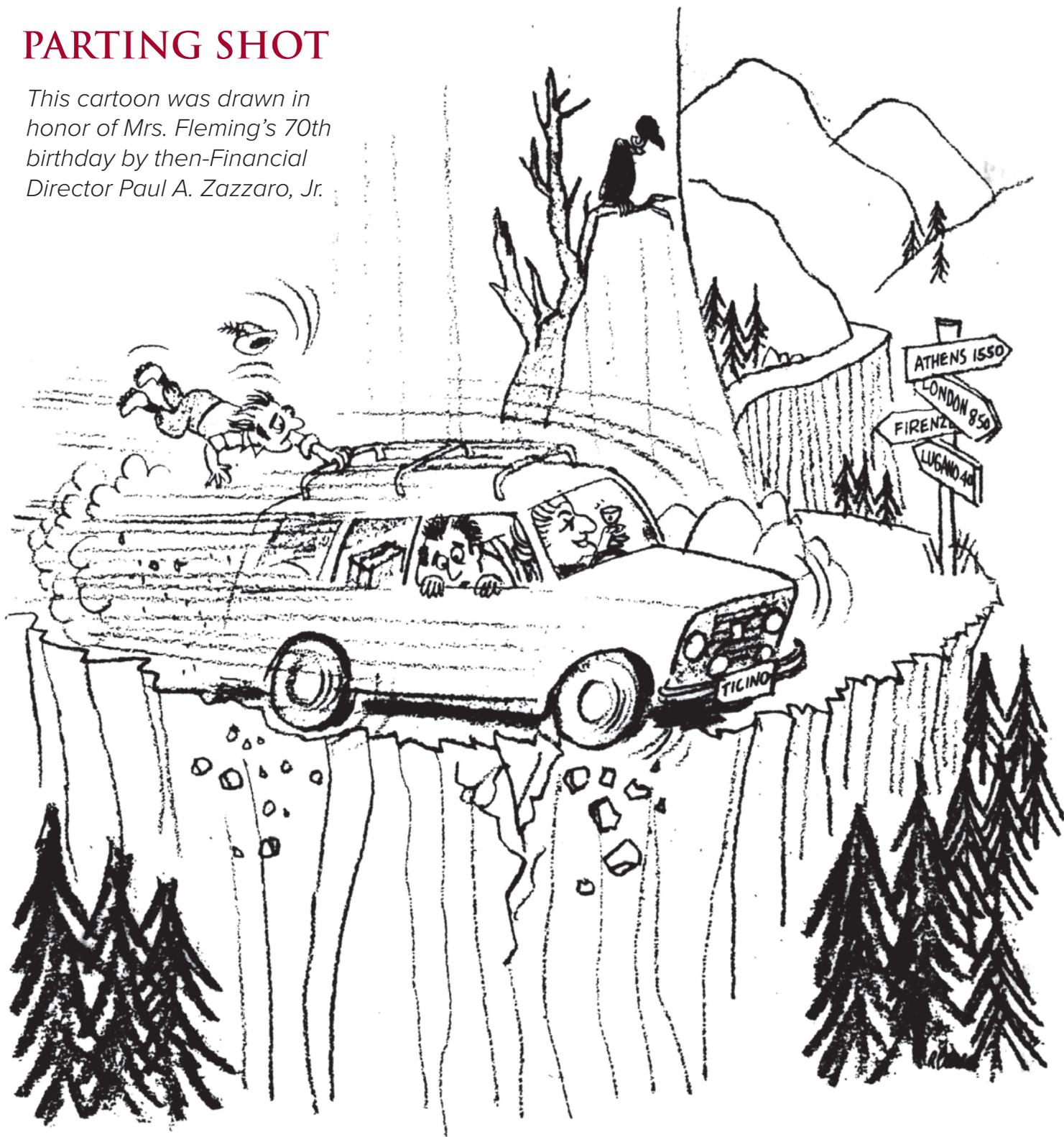
## TASIS DORADO SPANISH SUMMER PROGRAM (AGES 12-18)



- Intensive Spanish program for ages 13-18
- Marine Life & Environmental Studies course associated with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment Center
- Located on the TASIS Dorado campus in beautiful Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico, with ample opportunities to interact in Spanish
- Excursions explore the cultural riches of the island

## PARTING SHOT

*This cartoon was drawn in honor of Mrs. Fleming's 70th birthday by then-Financial Director Paul A. Zazzaro, Jr.*



*"Go easy on the bitters this round, Paul — by the way — did Georgio finish fixing the roof rack?"*



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL  
IN SWITZERLAND

*Founded in 1956*

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### **All-Class Reunion in Washington, DC**

November 17, 2017, 6:30–9:30 pm

The Smithsonian Castle

### **All-Class Reunion in Los Angeles**

March 24, 2018

Save the Date!

## CLASS REUNIONS

### **PG '67 – 50th anniversary reunion in Moab, UT**

September 30, 2017

### **PG '67 – 50th anniversary reunion in Washington, DC**

November 17-19, 2017

### **Class of 1968 – 50th anniversary reunion**

Spring 2018

### **Class of 2008 – 10th anniversary reunion**

Lugano, June 1-3, 2018

### **Class of 1998 – 20th anniversary reunion**

Lugano, June 8-10, 2018